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Volunteers 'devastated' by torching of bird hide

By Eva Astreinidou

THRUPP Lake has gone from 'fairy magic' to 'flaming damage' after the bird hide at the nature reserve was burnt down by vandals.

Police are treating a fire at the 'thriving' site, managed by the Earth Trust, as arson.

A spokeswoman from Thames Valley Police said the fire service reported the blaze on April 23 at 7.50pm, saying the hide at Thrupp Lake near Radley had been set alight.

The area is home to herons and kingfishers in the spring, damselflies and dragonflies in summer, swans in autumn and a multitude of overwintering birds in winter.

Lucy Tomkinson, community reserves warden, said: "Thrupp Lake has always attracted a huge variety of wildlife and we're hopeful that our recent improvements will draw in even more.

"We're extremely grateful to our volunteers who have worked incredibly hard to build and fit the new wildlife features.

"The group have really enjoyed tackling a new project. After all our hard work to improve the reserve, to find out that the bird hide had been burnt down was devastating."

The nature reserve has been subject to vandalism in the past and the derelict Sandles building has been a target.

But this is due to be demolished in the coming weeks.

Volunteers cleared the remains of the hide on April 27.

It has not yet been decided whether the hide will be replaced but improvements for wildlife will continue, with the final piece of work scheduled for early this week.

Volunteers will be helping create a sand martin bank on an island at the southern end of the lake for birds to nest in during the spring and summer for years to come.

A variety of improvement work had taken place on the site prior to the fire.

Volunteers installed new wildlife features to attract more animals thanks to recent funding and local Brownies created a fairy door trail.

Contact police on 101 if you have any information on the incident.

The scorched remains of the bird hide at Thrupp Lake. Inset, how it looked before the fire after the hard work of volunteers

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The Oxbotica team with their driverless car

Driverless cars on way

By George Welch

DRIVERLESS cars will make 'groundbreaking' journeys between Oxford and London in just two years' time.

At least, that's the hope for Summertown-based artificial intelligence firm Oxbotica, who are leading a coalition called DRIVEN that wants to trial the technology between the cities in 2019.

The consortium will address issues such as communication and data sharing between vehicles, cyber security and insurance during a 30-month project that started at the end of last month.

Dr Graeme Smith, chief executive of Oxbotica, based in Mayfield Road, hailed the scheme as "truly groundbreaking".

He added: "No company, group or consortium of autonomy experts has ever attempted what we are planning over the next 30 months.

"We are seeking to address some of the most fundamental challenges preventing the future commercial deployment of fully autonomous vehicles.

"I have full confidence in DRIVEN's world-leading and internationally respected team of specialists to deliver this project."

Professor Paul Newman, head of the Oxford Robotics Institute at Oxford University and one of Oxbotica's founders, said: "DRIVEN is the first of its kind and brings a host of new questions surrounding the way these vehicles will communicate with each other.

"We're moving from the singleton autonomous vehicle to fleets of autonomous vehicles – and what's interesting to us at the institute is what data the vehicles share with one another, when, and why."

Other members of the consortium are Oxford Robotics Institute, Oxfordshire County Council and the UK Atomic Energy Authority's RACE.

The county's role will be to support the 'connected infrastructure' capabilities of this new technology by exploring the possibility of vehicles communicating with fixed infrastructure such as traffic lights.

Llewellyn Morgan, service manager for infrastructure, innovation and development for communities at the county council, said: "The project will enhance the county council's reputation as a leader in intelligent mobility and means that we can take what we learn from this and other projects to benefit other places in Oxfordshire in the future."

News Bites

Brave hearts

OXFORD: People affected by heart disease will be stomping all over it with a hike from London to Oxford.

More than 350 trekkers will participate in either a 50km or 100km walk organised by the British Heart Foundation on May 13 and 14.

It will help fund the charity's research into heart disease.

Taking part this year is the runner up of Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins, Charles Krarup, who is supporting the charity after he lost his father when he was only 21 from an unexpected heart attack.

More than £100,000 was raised from the challenge in 2016.

Circulatory disease is the cause of more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK.

Toys delight

OXFORD: Children receiving care at the John Radcliffe Hospital had their days brightened when local food stores donated nearly £1,000 worth of brand new toys.

Eight Midcounties Co-operative Food branches across Oxfordshire raised the money by placing collection buckets in store for a two-week period.

The cash bought a variety of toys for the children to enjoy, including teddy bears, Lego and books.

The John Radcliffe Hospital, in Headington, has six specialised wards providing care for children of all ages across Oxfordshire.

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Scheme to speed up process of adoption has 'huge potential'

CHILDREN and adopters are set to benefit from a new plan that will speed up the adoption process and offer a better service for all.

Oxfordshire County Council is to join forces with neighbouring councils to create a regional adoption agency for the Thames Valley.

A cabinet meeting last week approved the plan, which will match children with families more quickly and improve support services.

A council spokesman said the benefits of the new model include shorter waiting times, improved support, an increased ability to find adoptive families for harder-to-place children and better value for local authorities through pooling resources.

The council's deputy director for children's social care, Hannah Farncombe, suggested the scheme has huge potential.

She said: "There is strong agreement across the partnership about the benefits of working in this way and preparations are well under way to put the new arrangements in place.

"Oxfordshire has a strong track record on adoption services and we now have the opportunity to build on that as the host authority within an exciting new partnership.

"Regional agencies have great potential to drive improvements in adoption services.

"Working in partnership with neighbouring councils and voluntary agencies also enables us to share expertise, pool resources and ensure good quality and consistent support services are in place for all adopters across the region."

The government has set out plans for all adoption services to be delivered through RAAs by 2020.

Oxfordshire would be the host authority within a partnership known as Adopt Thames Valley.

The Government will provide a grant of £300,000 to help set up the new service.

Playing it for kicks

WALKING footballers laced up their boots to compete in a festival at the leisure centre.

Around 40 players took part in the friendly tournament where there were no winners or losers but everyone received a medal for taking part.

"It's a great way to stay actively involved in the game, without having to be particularly fit or risk injury," said Kevin Williams, general manager of the leisure centre.

Right, participants pictured with Mike Badcock, chairman of White Horse District Council

Pensioner who suspected he had cancer drowned himself

By Matthew Brown

A PENSIONER who drowned himself in a river feared he had cancer, an inquest heard.

Brian Davies, who lived in Caldecott Road in Abingdon, left a note apologising to family members saying he "was in pain" and outlined concerns that he was unwell with the disease.

The note was signed off 'Sorry Roy and Jan' – his brother and sister-in-law.

Emergency services were called to the scene near St Helen's Wharf shortly after 6am on December 6 last year when a passer-by spotted the 74-year-old's body where the River Ock meets the River Thames near Wilsham Road.

The retired garage attendant's body was discovered by Abingdon resident Dean Taylor as he walked over the iron bridge to work at 6am that day.

Thames Valley Police officers were called to the scene following reports of a 'fear for welfare' incident and were followed by firefighters and an ambulance.

After searching the body, PC Keith Morton only found a set of house keys and Ladbrokes betting slips.

Police visited Ladbrokes stores in town and customer service manager Nora Bates recognised his description.

A friend of Mr Davies, Donald Crook, confirmed the Abingdon man, who was never married, visited Ladbrokes in Bath Street "every day" to bet on horses.

On Thursday last week Oxford Coroner's Court heard from Mr Davies' brother Roy that he was a "very private man who kept himself to himself".

According to Mr Davies, his brother was a "stubborn individual". They met up a few times a month but always on Brian's terms. He said his brother would always get up around 6am to buy a paper.

It was also revealed at the inquest that he had been diagnosed with a personality disorder 20 years ago but otherwise his health history was largely unknown due to him not being registered with a GP for a number of years.

It is unclear how he knew he had cancer and his brother said he was unaware of the diagnosis.

Later a post-mortem examination revealed Mr Davies did have a tumour in his oesophagus.

Assistant coroner Nicholas Graham recorded a verdict of suicide by drowning.

News Bites

Head for heights

ABINGDON: Headmaster of Abingdon School Mike Windsor abseiled 100ft down the tower of Dorchester Abbey to raise money for charity.

The challenge on Saturday was organised as part of the Dorchester Music Festival, which runs from April 28 to May 7.

Mr Windsor said: "Stepping out over the parapet was pretty nerve-wracking. It looked higher than I thought it would!"

Money raised will go to the abbey and the Sue Ryder Charity.

Foyer's appeal

ABINGDON: Abingdon Foyer at The Square is appealing for basic household items to help vulnerable young people live independently.

The centre provides accommodation, training and support to youngsters in the area.

Manager Gill Wilsker said: "Many of our residents moving into new accommodation have come from desperate situations and have little to start their new lives with."

Special branch

LITTLE WITTENHAM: There's only a few places left for tree climbing at the Earth Trust on Saturday May 13.

Participants must be at least six years old but there is no maximum age.

All funds raised go towards supporting the Earth Trust's work.

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Rare Chinese reptile back from the 'brink of extinction'

The endangered lizard being handled by the experts at Cotswold Wildlife Park

Park has lizard breeding licked

By Eva Astreinidou

A RARE reptile species on the 'brink of extinction' has been successfully bred and is being hosted by Cotswold Wildlife Park.

The Chinese crocodile lizard – shinisaurus crocodilurus – is under threat as it is still widely used in traditional medicine.

Some believe it can cure insomnia since it can remain motionless for hours or sometimes even days.

The species is also threatened by habitat loss and by harvesting.

Now, the reptile team at the park are the first in the UK to have successfully bred the lizard in attempts to protect it.

The curator of Cotswold Wildlife Park, Jamie Craig, said: "The reptile department dedicated long periods to researching this species' needs and ensuring they were in optimum condition.

"This has now paid off with the arrival of the youngster and we hope we can now regularly repeat our success."

The baby lizard is currently off-show in the park's specialist reptile rearing room, but visitors can see the adults in their enclosure in the reptile house.

The semi-aquatic species is found only in areas of southern China and in very small numbers in northern Vietnam.

It can be seen in the ponds, shallow pools and slow-flowing streams in evergreen and bamboo forests.

In 2015, China had approximately 850 crocodile lizards left in the wild, compared to an estimated 5,000 in 1991.

Vietnam's population is now believed to be fewer than 100.

While the lizard is found within protected areas in Vietnam its habitat is at risk from agricultural encroachment, illegal timber logging and water pollution.

Takeaway boss fined for putting staff at risk

THE former owner of a Chinese takeaway has been ordered to pay more than £4,600 for letting employees sleep in her premises under dangerous conditions.

Siew Ling Yap, who ran the Crispy Duck 1, Didcot, was fined for failing to provide suitable fire safety arrangements by allowing staff to sleep in a loft space near the store room at her premises at 4 Lostock Place.

They were deemed at risk of death or serious injury.

Ms Yap admitted three charges for three different offences at Banbury Magistrates' Court on April 28.

These included failure to take general fire precautions to ensure the premises were safe for employees, failure to ensure it was possible to evacuate as quickly and as safely as possible and failure to provide an adequate fire detection and alarm system.

Ms Yap was ordered to pay fines amounting to £3,000, costs totalling £1,500, plus a victim surcharge of £100.

The business has new management. Ms Yap is no longer the owner.

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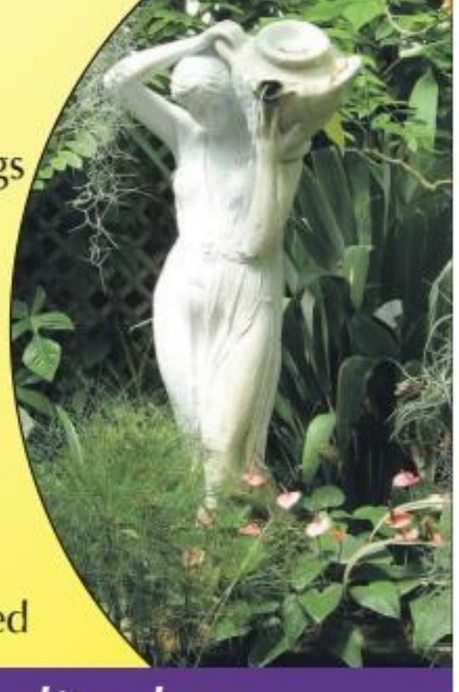

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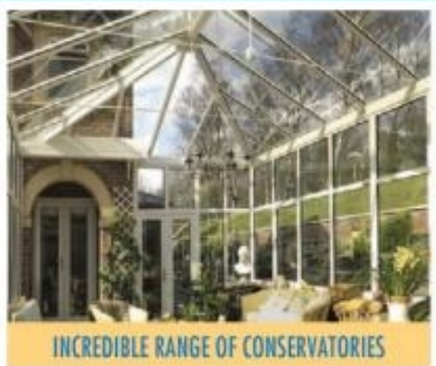
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Joanne Tarling, left, and Diane James picked up the award on behalf of Blue Cross Burford for their work

Award for charity helping bereaved pet owners cope

By George Welch

AN Oxfordshire organisation has been named charity of the year for helping animal lovers come to terms with the loss of their pets.

The Blue Cross Burford team has been running run a pet bereavement support and training programme for more than 20 years.

The charity aims to reduce the angst around pet loss, which they say for some owners is as painful a loss as that of humans.

On receiving the award, Joanne Tarling, from the Blue Cross Burford team, said: "We're really overwhelmed – it's so unexpected and absolutely brilliant. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who keep the service going and this award is for each and every one of them."

Fellow member of the Blue Cross team Tracie McGory added: "We are a small, but dedicated, bubbly team that genuinely care about what we do.

"Our aim is to reduce the stigma around pet loss, as, for some owners, the grief that they experience is just as painful as experiencing human loss.

"Through our dedicated programme not only are we are able to support these pet owners but we also train professionals to do the same, so bereaved owners can receive the best care across the UK when they need it."

Particularly impressive for the independent panel of judges was the team's loyalty to the charity's roots as a 'society for the encouragement of kindness to animals', with the small team supporting bereaved pet owners via both a helpline and an email service that is open 365 days a year.

Petplan's head of marketing, Isabella von Mesterhazy, said: "It's a pleasure to announce our deserving animal charity winners this year, with the calibre of finalists for the awards extremely high.

"Each and every one of the individuals and teams nominated are unfailingly committed to animal welfare.

"We're thrilled to take this opportunity to shine a light on their continued hard work."

Blue Cross won the accolade at the Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Awards 2017 on Wednesday last week at Birmingham's Hilton Metropole.

This Girl Can...swim the Thames

AN Oxfordshire woman will be swimming a mile in the Thames as part of a 'This Girl Can' campaign that aims to introduce the sport to more women.

Mother-of-two Laura Hope-Smith, 39, from Cholsey, is keen to get back into the open water that she loved as a child, after winning a national competition to participate in the Henley Mile on July 9.

She has won a free place – and help and support from Henley Swim – to join hundreds of others taking part.

Laura has never done any open water swimming before and will now spend the next three months training with five other women.

They will be blogging about their adventures and describing their experiences.

This is the third year that Henley Swim and This Girl Can have run the competition.

Swimmer Laura Hope-Smith

Previous swimmers include Alison Baker, 61, who still swims outside throughout the winter, and Claire Bennett, 45, who is currently training for an English Channel Relay.

Henley Swim co-founder Tom Kean said: "Once again we have been overwhelmed by the numbers of women who have entered.

"This is a hugely important and enjoyable initiative for us and each year the job of whittling down the entries to our finalist gets bigger.

"It's clear there are many different motivations for all our swimmers, but what it does show is how getting outside of your comfort zone adds meaning and excitement to life.

"Swimming is one of those rare sports that is truly gender neutral, and with This Girl Can we hope to introduce more ladies to a sport where they can excel on a personal level.

"In 2016, there were more female swimmers than males at the Henley Mile – a statistic of which we are proud."

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Fire crews damp down the blaze at the disused petrol station

Teenagers detained over blaze at garage

TWO teenagers have been arrested after a fire ripped through a derelict petrol station.

The 16 and 14-year-old boys from Carterton were held on suspicion of arson.

They have been released under investigation following the blaze in Upavon Way on Monday afternoon.

The fire service said a total of 32 calls were received about the inferno within the space of 14 minutes around 3.20pm.

Three fire crews arrived to find the petrol station engulfed in flames and the roof already collapsed.

Station manager Simon Belcher said: "Due to the proximity of houses our police colleagues advised home owners to close their doors and windows to keep the smoke out."

17 men appear in court facing child sex charges

A GANG of men has appeared in court charged with a series of child sex offences.

The 17 were arrested after police raids in Oxford and Banbury last month as part of Operation Nautical, an inquiry into child sexual exploitation.

Six of the men – Shabir Dogar, 23, of Bertie Place, Oxford; Shabaz Khan, 23, of Cosin Close, Oxford; Joseph Suraina, 22, of Marlborough Close, Oxford; Shohab Dogar, 23, of Tawney Street, Oxford; Yasin Hamid, 20, of Moorbank, Oxford, and Usman Iddris, 22, of Northway, Headington – appeared on Tuesday morning via video link from HMP Bullingdon.

All six, who were remanded in custody, are due to enter pleas at the court on July 7. The provisional trial date is set for September 11.

Several men appeared in the afternoon – Qamran Hafiz, 24, of Danesmoor, Banbury; Atiq Hussain, 23, of Avenue Road, Banbury; Tafail Mohammed, 23, of East Close, Banbury; Marcelo Suarez, 20, of Hillside Close, Banbury; Leon Cole, 19, of Alma Road, Banbury; Ahsan Raza, 19, of Churchill Road, Birmingham; Abdul Sarfraz, 31, of Deacon Way, Banbury; Nasser Younis, 37, of Sandford Green, Banbury; Atique Akhtar, 23, of no fixed abode, and Amir Arfi, 23, of no fixed abode all appeared via video link from Bullingdon. Waqas Hussain, 24, of no fixed abode appeared via link from HMP Parkhurst.

The 11 men will enter their pleas on July 14. The provisional trial date has been set for January 2.

Only Suarez was released on bail – the other 10 have been remanded in custody.

At a hearing in April at Oxford Magistrates' Court, the men were charged with the following offences:

■ Shabir Dogar had been charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl, rape of a girl, causing or inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity and sexual assault of a girl.

■ Shabaz Khan was charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl, two counts of rape of a girl, aiding and abetting rape of a girl and engaging in sexual activity with a girl.

■ Joseph Suraina was charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl.

■ Shohab Dogar was charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl, five counts of rape of a girl, seven counts of aiding and abetting rape of a girl and two counts of inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity.

■ Yasin Hamid was charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl and two counts of rape of a girl.

■ Usman Iddris was charged with three counts of conspiracy to rape a girl and rape of a girl.

■ Qamran Hafiz was charged with 11 counts of rape of a girl and inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity.

■ Atiq Hussain was charged with five counts of rape of a girl and two of inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity.

■ Tafail Mohammed was charged with rape of a girl.

■ Marcelo Suarez was charged with the rape of a woman.

■ Leon Cole was charged with two counts of rape of a girl, rape of a woman, two counts of aiding and abetting to procure the rape of a girl, false imprisonment, intimidating a witness and sexual assault.

■ Ahsan Raza was charged with four counts of rape of a girl, false imprisonment and inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity.

■ Abdul Sarfraz was charged with three counts of rape of a girl.

■ Nasser Younis was charged with six counts of rape of a girl and taking an indecent photograph of a child.

■ Amir Arfi was charged with six counts of rape of a girl and causing or inciting a girl to engage in sexual activity.

■ Atique Akhtar was charged with four counts of rape of a girl.

■ Waqas Hussain was charged with attempted sexual assault of a girl, inciting a girl into sexual activity, two counts of rape of girl and sexual assault of a girl.

Around 80 officers raided six Oxford properties as part of Operation Nautical, an investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire.

The offences relate to three female victims between 2008 and 2015, police said.

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Can you offer Trixie a new home?

By George Welch

A RECOVERING cat used as a 'breeding machine' all her life is searching for the purrfect home after her previous owner was sentenced for failing to protect 64 cats in her care.

Beautiful Bengal Trixie has been patiently waiting at the RSPCA's Millbrook Animal Centre in Surrey for 458 days to find the right home.

The brown-spotted 11-year-old needed the charity's care after a large prosecution case and is now looking for a loving family to take care of her.

Her previous owner – a Bengal breeder – had the cats including Trixie at her Oxfordshire home living in poor conditions, many of them ill with cat flu and other illnesses.

RSPCA Millbrook animal care assistant Sarah Piggott said: "Trixie was pregnant when she arrived here and was cared for by one of our staff members in their own home so she could be in a quiet environment to raise her kittens.

"It's clear that Trixie's whole life has been as a breeding machine and we believe she had kittens every year since 2007.

"Thankfully, she's now been spayed and can enjoy life herself for her remaining years.

"Due to the life she's had, we're looking for a very special home for her.

"She's a real character and will need a dedicated owner who can help her adjust to life as a normal, family pet."

The charity added that Trixie is still a bit unsure about being handled but has bonded well with members of staff and, with time and patience, will learn to trust her new owners.

Staff would like her to go to a quiet, adult-only home without any other cats, although she may be able to live with a calm, cat-friendly dog.

Trixie's previous owner, from Oxfordshire, was found guilty of offences under the Animal Welfare Act of failing to protect 64 Bengal cats in her care because of a lack of appropriate and effective disease control programme.

She was sentenced to a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, 60 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £10,000 in costs and a £115 victim surcharge.

Trixie is looking for new owners. Picture: RSPCA

The injured cat Pictures: RSPCA

Search begins for cat's owner after horror injury

A CAT is 'lucky to be alive' after getting caught in the metal teeth of a gin trap.

The black and white cat will now have to have its leg amputated, after it was discovered with horrific injuries in Witney shortly before 8am on April 24.

A resident on Lancut Road found the cat in agony, contacted the RSPCA and took the cat to a nearby vet, where he remains on painkillers after being freed from the trap.

However, the injuries were so severe that the cat, who is not microchipped, will have to have the trapped leg amputated.

Now, the RSPCA is trying to find the owner.

RSPCA inspector Andy Eddy said: "This poor cat was understandably in agony when he was found. One of his front legs was still caught between the metal teeth of the trap, but his other front leg was also hurt as well. He also had blood on his mouth.

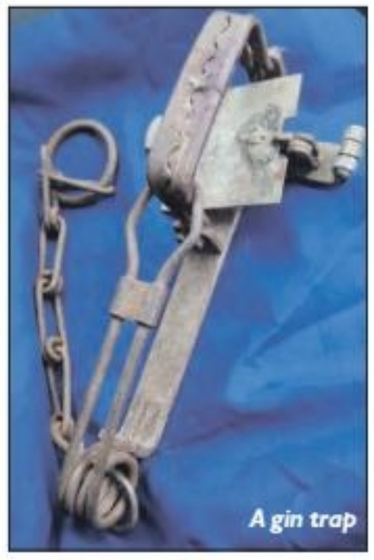
"The injuries he suffered were so severe that he will have to have the leg amputated. He is lucky to still be alive though.

"Traps like these are both cruel and indiscriminate. Once they're set, there is nothing stopping them from catching any type of animal that steps in its path, whether that is wildlife or a domestic pet."

Gin traps are mechanical traps designed to catch an animal by their leg, using spring-operated jaws with teeth or a serrated edge.

The use of gin traps has been outlawed in the UK since 1958, but some are still being illegally used to catch animals such as rabbits and foxes.

The sale or possession of such traps is not illegal, but people can face prosecution by setting a gin trap.



A gin trap

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Gearing up for the Tour of Britain

CYCLING fans are in for a treat with a premier cycling tour set to pass through Oxfordshire.

The OVO Energy Tour of Britain will pass through the county on September 9.

More than 120 cyclists will race through towns and villages including Wootton, Charlbury and the Wychwoods, before continuing through the Cotswolds, eventually finishing in Cheltenham town centre in the seventh stage of the tour, covering a total span of 186km.

Sally Graff of West Oxfordshire District Council Tourism said: "Many residents will be thrilled to see world-class cyclists up close.

"Also, being part of the event should attract a lot of visitors who have not previously sampled the hospitality and attractions of the Cotswolds and we will be in touch with businesses to make the most of this opportunity."

Race director Mick Bennett said: "The OVO Energy Tour of Britain has passed through the Cotswolds on a number of occasions, but this will be the first stage to finish in the area. The race will showcase the area's beautiful scenery."

For more information, email cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk

Support the Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year

Making Headway in helping the recovery of brain injury patients

By George Welch

OXFORDSHIRE'S first ever state of the art voluntary sector neurological physiotherapy gym is set to open tomorrow.

The ribbon will be cut and the doors will be opened to the new Headway Oxfordshire facility by the charity's president Baroness Susan Greenfield at their Kennington base.

The independent charity supports those affected by brain injury across the county and the highly specialised service is one of two main benefactors of our charity of the year Play2Give's fundraising efforts.

P2G, a fundraising group working for the Oxford Children's Hospital as well as Headway, has helped raise funds towards both the new gym and last summer's redevelopment of the charity's activity and rehabilitation centre.

The new gym is built within that activity and rehabilitation centre, where users can visit on a daily basis to socialise with others with neurological conditions, have one-on-one physiotherapy sessions and take part in daily activities that stimulate different areas of the brain.

The re-opening of the expanded gym will boast seven new physiotherapy exercise machines that are developed to exercise different areas in the body.

Overall, the gym equipment itself cost £28,000, of which P2G has raised £4,570.

The new facility is considered vital by health professionals to help those affected by brain injury, of which there are 4,000 new cases admitted to Oxfordshire hospitals every year.

Baroness Greenfield said: "The work that Headway Oxfordshire does within the community to support the rehabilitation and social integration of those who have been affected by brain injury is of vital importance.

"It is in the practical application of creative approaches to rehabilitation that we as scientists and researchers, get to see the outcomes of our work become a reality."

Andy Baker, founder of P2G, is also looking forward to the re-opening.

He said: "It has been like a dream to finally see the redeveloped centre take shape as when I first came to Headway five years ago the plans were still just a vision and to be able to join in the celebrations will be really special."

Andy, 28, suffered brain injuries at birth and sustained a head injury aged eight after being knocked over in the playground at school.

He underwent brain surgery aged 12 at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford and has had a five-year association with Headway as he continues his rehabilitation.

P2G is aiming to raise £5,000 to mark Andy's five years at Headway and they are closing in on that target.

To donate to the appeal, visit tinyurl.com/zksd8xx

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Bicester's buzzing to help bees with a new meadow

By Samantha McGregor

SCHOOLCHILDREN are set to create a new wildflower meadow at a popular nature reserve thanks to a grant.

Bure Park Nature Reserve, in Bicester, is in line for a biodiversity boost after Cherwell District Council won a £3,379 grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2) to pay for seeds.

The wildflower meadow will be planted on a site near Bure Park Primary School and pupils and members of Bicester Green Gym, who are based in the nature reserve, will help with the seeding on May 16.

The project will focus on restoring habitats for bees, whose populations have declined sharply in recent years, and on further improving the park's offering to visitors.

Karen Curtin, Cherwell's commercial director, said: "Bure Park is Bicester's only nature reserve and we are delighted to have been awarded this grant, which will help us further to improve its status as a beacon of wellbeing and biodiversity.

"Bees contribute millions of pounds to the economy every year by pollinating the fruits and vegetables that end up on our plates.

"Their decline is a concern and we hope that by supporting their habitats we can help boost their local population.

"The meadow will be planted with nectar-rich plants which will also attract other species such as ladybirds, moths and butterflies.

"Overall, by providing a more diverse and attractive wildlife habitat, the meadow will further improve Bure Park Nature Reserve's contribution to residents' quality of life."

As it becomes established, the wildflower meadow will play host to educational activities for the community, including a led nature walk on National Meadows Day, on July 1.

By working closely with the school and residents, the council hopes to encourage people to plant wildflowers in their own gardens to further boost Bicester biodiversity.

Last year the nature reserve was given a £41,000 grant to pay for new signs to help people navigate it easier and make it more accessible.

The cash was donated by environmental body WREN.

The money was used to buy 17 new fingerpost-style signs and five interpretation signs.

The latest grant was funded by Grundon Waste Management, which supports TOE2 through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The site for the new meadow at Bure Park Nature Reserve

Festival gives its backing to 'life-saving' air ambulance

From left, TVAA paramedic Lisa Brown, pilot Marcus Doyle, Towersey Festival's Simon Diegan and director Joe Heap, and doctor Rich Kaye

THE annual music festival in Thame that will feature performances from the likes of KT Tunstall and Newton Faulker is partnering up with Thames Valley Air Ambulance for another year.

The 'live-saving' service is getting a shining endorsement from the annual Towersey Festival, which takes place from August 25 to 28 at Thame Showground and this year will feature over 100 acts across a dozen stages.

Towersey Festival director Joe Heap, who visited a TVAA crew at RAF Benson, said: "We're pleased to be able to continue to support Thames Valley Air Ambulance with their life-saving work across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire."

Ruth Dunkin, senior fundraising manager for TVAA, said: "We are delighted to be supported by Towersey Festival in 2017, and have some exciting plans which will be revealed nearer the time."

Helicopters from Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA) attend on average three incidents a day, and the elite team on board perform procedures including inducing patients into a coma, open heart surgery and treating major traumas.

This year's festival will be hosting street theatre, workshops for all ages, real ale and cider, gourmet street food, films, spoken word, comedy and dedicated events for families over the four days.

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Distinguished author inspires pupils with hilarious tales

AN award-winning author visited pupils ahead of a town's literary festival.

Celebrated children's author Tanya Landman met year eight pupils at Kingham Hill School when she dropped in as part of the Chipping Norton Literary Festival.

She told pupils "hilarious tales from her childhood and school" and described her ambitions to be an astronaut, ballerina and monkey.

Ms Landman also told students about her time working at Bristol Zoo as Kevin the teddy bear, whose many adventures inspired some of her earlier children's books.

But it was her collection of young adult historical fiction that pupils were most interest in.

She had based the Carnegie Medal-winning Buffalo Soldier on the real life story of freed slave Cathy Williams, who disguised herself as a man and fought as a Buffalo Soldier in the US army.

Donna Saxby, Kingham Hill School's librarian, said: "Meeting a successful author is so inspiring for pupils, it encourages them to reflect on their own stories, both real and imaginary.

The Carnegie Medal is a British literary award that recognises an outstanding new book for children or young adults.

Milly Weaver, children's programmer for Chipping Norton Literary Festival, said: "It is always such a pleasure to bring an author into Kingham Hill, a school which obviously places a high value on reading and literacy."

Children's author Tanya Landman entertains pupils at Kingham Hill School

Mayor opens family centre

IT has been a year in the making but Thame's new family centre has finally opened its doors.

Thame's mayor Linda Emery cut the ribbon to declare the Red Kite centre, in Southam Road, open last week.

A string of activities has been launched for children and young people aged up to 19.

The centre is being run by the Sharing Life Trust, which led a bid to operate it and fundraise for the project.

It faced closure as part of Oxfordshire County Council cuts to funding.

The community charity has raised cash to keep it running for the next year, including a grant of £30,000 from the county council.

John Hulett, chairman of trustees, said he was "delighted" the centre had secured funds to stay open.

He said: "There were two key reasons for wanting to keep this centre open.

"Firstly, the support and activities that it offers to all parents and toddlers can only really work if they are based in the local community, here in Thame, and also in Chinnor.

"Secondly, Amy Spicer as leader of the former children's centre, is so highly respected and trusted for the work she and her team have done supporting these young families in the past that we were determined to make sure that it could continue."

Launch day was a chance for families and carers to find out more about the centre and take part in a host of activities including stories and crafts.

About 70 families and their children had the chance to meet Ms Spicer and the rest of the team, as well as a giant gecko and teddy bear organised by the regional Co-op.

For more details about the services offered by the centre view redkitefamilycentre.org

News Bites

Trucker injured

OXON: A motorist was removed from a lorry on a stretcher after it crashed off the M40 motorway between Thame and Watlington at 11.40am last Friday.

The fire service said the vehicle had left the carriageway and gone down an embankment. Crews from Thame, Wheatley and Reading attended.

Land sale plan

THAME: The town council is consulting over a proposal to sell a near-50 square metre section of council-owned amenity land to the residents of 20 Pickenfield.

The land is next to the resident's property and because of its size is of no benefit to the community.

Any objections should be sent to Janine Howells, Thame Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Thame, OX9 3DP, by Friday, May 12.

Burglar appeal

N OXON: Cash was stolen during a burglary in Thrupp, near Kidlington, on March 29.

Anyone with information should call the police on 101, quoting incident number 43170091245, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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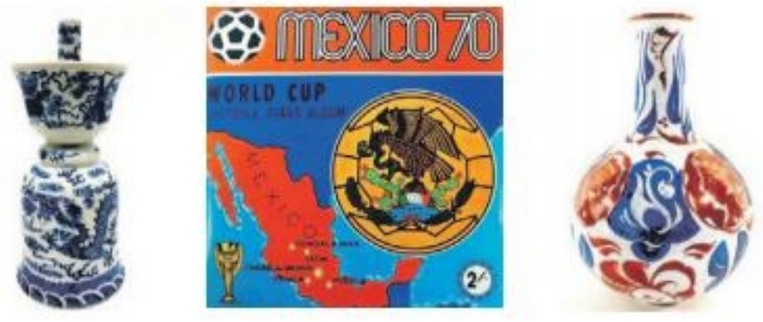

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Competition

WIN some 'A Dog's Purpose' goodies!

BASED on author W. Bruce Cameron's beloved best-selling novel, A Dog's Purpose shares the heart warming and surprising story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love.

Over the course of five decades, a single voice—that of an indefatigable dog (Josh Gad) —takes us along a riveting and uplifting path that speaks to the heart of anyone who has ever loved an animal. Although he is reincarnated in the bodies of multiple canines through the years, it is his unbreakable bond with a kindred spirit named Ethan (Dennis Quaid) that carries and inspires one dog throughout his journey to find his true purpose.

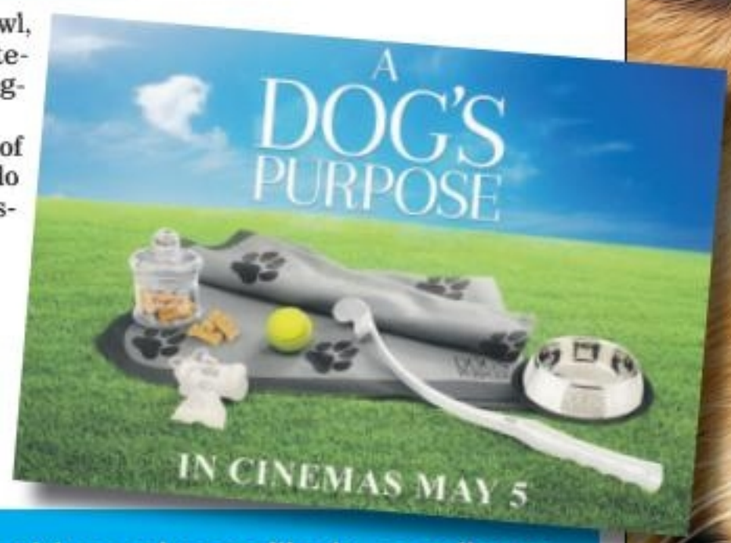
WIN goodies!

We have five packs of great stuff available to be won. The prizes include a ball-thrower, a doggie bowl, a themed blanket, a waste-bag dispenser and a dog-treat jar!

Closing date: Friday, May 12

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: Who wrote the novel A Dog's Purpose?



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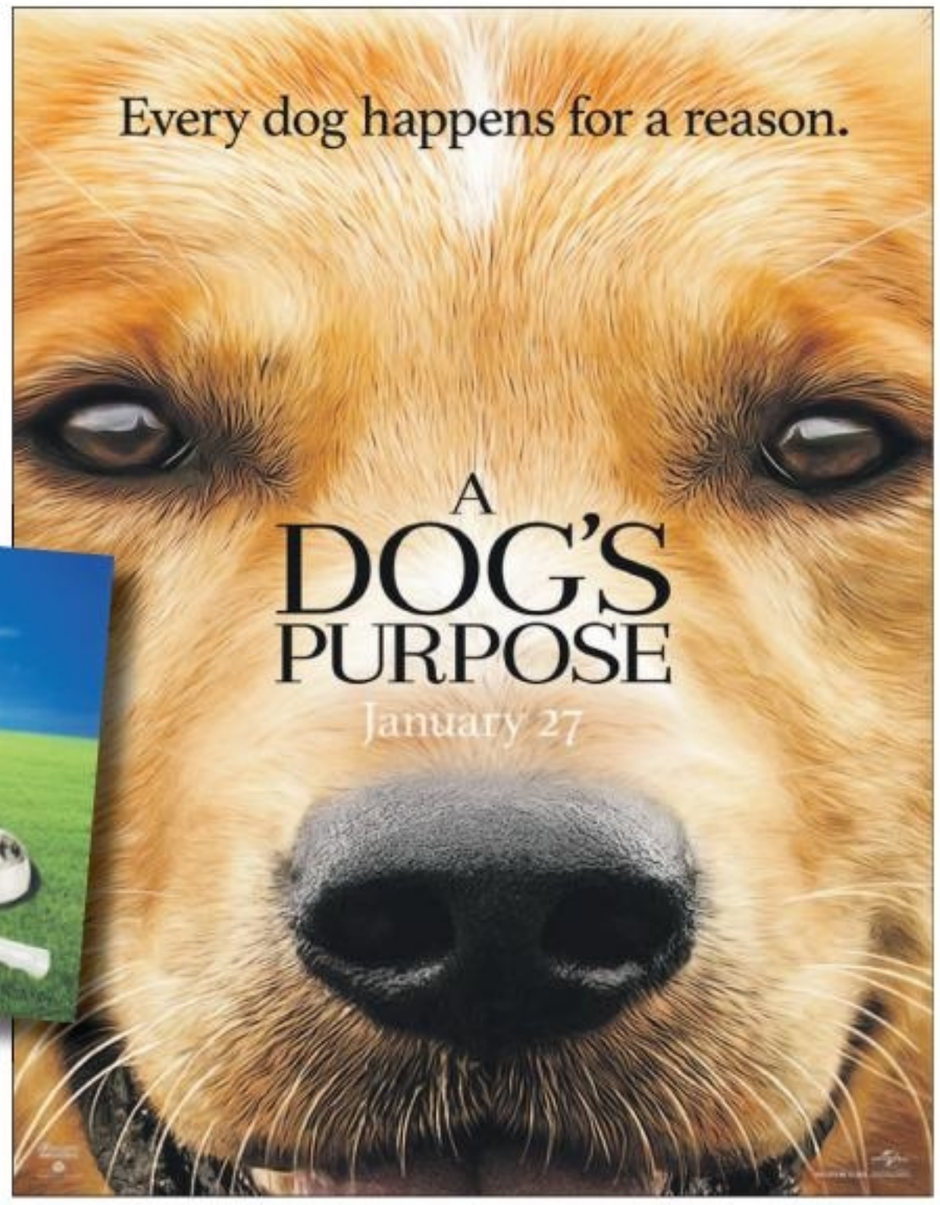

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Competition

CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES - WIN TICKETS TO SEE THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES

LEGENDARY LEGO® artist Nathan Sawaya took London by storm in 2014 with his extraordinary exhibition THE ART OF THE BRICK.

Now he returns to the UK with his brand new exhibition inspired by the world's most popular and enduring Super Heroes and Villains. THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES includes over 120 large scale exhibits made from over 2 million LEGO bricks, all displayed in a purpose built space on London's South Bank.

Nathan Sawaya takes inspiration from DC characters including Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, The Joker and Harley Quinn. Through a series of immersive galleries, the exhibition explores the mythology of DC Comic books and themes of transformation and reinvention, strength versus weakness and good versus evil.

Get ready to find your own inner hero!

London's South Bank, Corner of Upper Ground and Cornwall Rd, London SE1 9PP from 1 March 2017

Closing date: Friday, May 12, 2017

http://www.aotbdc.co.uk

Your chance to win!

We have teamed up with THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES to offer our readers the chance to win a family ticket to see this fantastic exhibition.

There are x5 family tickets to be won. To enter answer the following question:

Q: How many LEGO bricks have been used to create THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES exhibits?

Over 1 million, over 2 million or over 200,000

Terms and Conditions:

Prize tickets are family tickets for x4 people (x2 adults, x2 children under 16 years old) and are valid for all session times, Monday to Sunday until 26 May 2017, strictly subject to availability. Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Inhaled (8)
4 Kind of powder (4)
8 Catches sight of (6)
10 Trader (6)
11 Swiftness (5)
12 Unfasten (5)
14 Feminine (6)
17 Cast doubt on (9)
18 Complete (3,3,3)
22 Drive away (6)
24 Composition (5)
24 Watchful (5)
26 Yellowish white (6)
27 Satisfies (6)
28 Sprinkle (4)
29 Abridges (8)

Quick Clues Down

1 Raised (4)
2 Make larger (6)
3 Proposition (6)
5 On the water (6)
6 Put in a difficult position (8)
7 Yielded (5)
9 Particularly (9)
10 Guards (9)
13 Moor to dock (3,2)
15 Less (5)
16 Led toward (8)
18 willows (6)
19 Sides for games (5)
20 Stableman (6)
21 Grapple with (6)
25 Employs (4)

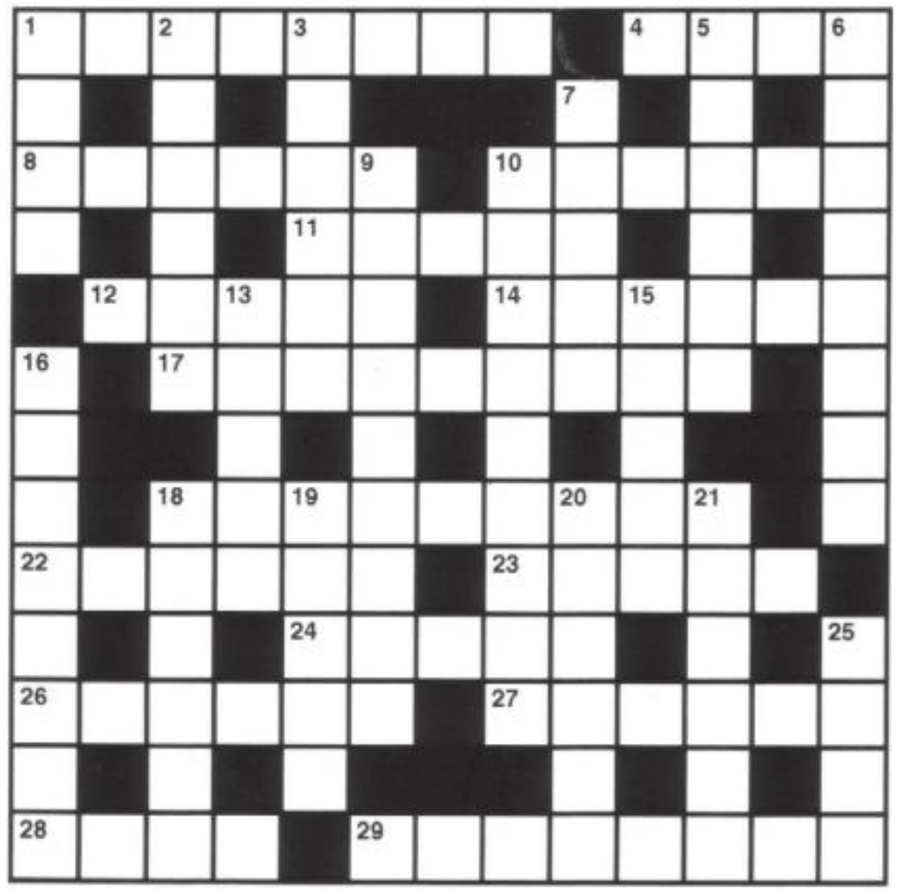
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Like grains from a lunar rag (8)
4 Second-rate Greek (4)
8 Secured with hair? (6)
10 Charge for standing still? (6)
11 Fireside goddess with a broken stick (5)
12 In general, four are bestowed (5)
14 He ought to know all the answers (6)
17 But can he crawl a hundred feet? (9)
18 Effect a safe entry? (5,4)
22 Cups and saucers for Bostonians? (3,3)
23 Truce broken by a vinegar bottle (5)
24 Shattered at being hard-up? (5)
26 The slave of the bowling-alley? (6)
27 Rod set out in reserve (6)
28 A suitable place for knotting ties? (4)
29 A newly floated company could do with this (8)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Beat up the game with dubs (4)
2 The circle where part is over the nervous reaction (6)
3 One is always so irregular (6)
5 Lead astray about ten out skating? (6)
6 Chemical change to a medieval type of research (8)
7 Such a gaze might produce tears (5)
9 Profession for one interested in drawing, perhaps (9)
10 Check roosters for controlling water (9)
13 Love of the solar system (5)
15 Farewell from a French god? (5)
16 Out of order sets give signs of earlier life (8)
18 This gets all the votes (6)
19 Resist pressure from rare beliefs (5)
20 Attractive victim who swallowed better without beer? (6)
21 A little uranium surrounded by neon - it's enough to make you nervous (6)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

1		3	5	2				
	7	8		1				6
	4	5					9	2
		6			4		5	
4	1		9		7		8	3
	8		1			2		
9	2					3	6	
3				7		8	1	
				9	5	7		4

	3		4		1		8	
2	6			5			4	9
	2	8				9	3	
4		6				1		8
	5	7				4	2	
5	7			2			1	3
	4		3		9		7	

1					5			
	6	3			4			5
	5			2			4	
			3			8	7	
4								2
	7	6			1			
	3			5			2	
8			6			9	1	
			9					3

This week's solutions

9	3	5	4	6	1	7	8	2
2	6	4	1	5	8	9	4	9
7	8	1	9	2	3	6	5	4
6	1	7	8	9	2	4	3	5
3	5	7	6	1	4	2	9	8
4	9	6	2	7	3	1	5	8
1	2	8	5	4	6	9	3	7
5	7	3	9	8	2	4	1	3
8	4	2	7	3	5	6	7	1

1	9	3	5	2	6	4	7	8
2	7	8	4	1	9	5	3	6
6	4	5	7	3	8	1	9	2
7	3	6	2	8	4	9	5	1
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	3
3	5	9	1	6	3	2	4	7
5	8	9	1	6	3	2	4	7
9	2	7	8	4	1	3	6	5
8	6	1	3	9	5	7	2	4

8	4	2	7	3	5	6	9	1
3	5	4	6	2	9	8	1	7
9	2	7	8	4	1	3	6	5
5	8	9	1	6	3	2	4	7
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	3
7	3	6	2	8	4	9	5	1
6	4	5	7	3	8	1	9	2
2	7	8	4	1	9	5	3	6
1	9	3	5	2	6	4	7	8

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Breathed 4 Talc 8 Espies 10 Dealer 11 Speed 12 Untie 14 Female 17 Discredit 16 Out and out 22 Dispel 23 Essay 24 Alert 26 Creamy 27 Slakes 28 Dust 29 Shortens

Down: 1 Bred 2 Expand 3 Thesis 5 Afloat 6 Cornered 7 Ceded 9 Specially 10 Defenders 13 Tie up 15 Minus 16 Conducted 18 Osiers 19 Teams 20 Ostler 21 Tackle 25 Uses

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Granular 4 Beta 8 Locked 10 Static 11 Vesta 12 Given 14 Oracle 17 Centipede 18 Burst open 22 Tea set 23 Cruet 24 Broke 26 Galley 27 Stored 28 Site 29 Buoyancy

Down: 1 Golf 2 Arctic 3 Uneven 5 Entice 6 Alchemic 7 Stare 9 Dentistry 10 Stopcocks 13 Venus 15 Adieu 16 Vestiges 18 Ballot 19 Rebel 20 Pretty 21 Neuron 25 Idly

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Step into Spring – with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
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- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
- Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!

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To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

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Capturing hearts

A tale of first, unrequited and married love comes to the Oxford Playhouse this month in Dodie Smith's I Capture the Castle
Suzanne Ahmet, Isaac Stanmor, Kate Batter and Lowri Izzard, pictured, star
See inside for more
Picture: Richard Lakos

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Saturday May 6th

DAYTIME

BBC1

Casualty, 8.05pm

11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites 12.00 Football Focus (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Usain Bolt: The Final Chapter** (S) **1.45 Athletics: Diamond League Qatar Highlights** (S) **2.45 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **3.45 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.30 Final Score** (S) **5.30 Who Dares Wins** (S) **6.10 BBC News** (S) **6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.30 Pointless Celebrities** (S)

7

7.20 Doctor Who Bill moves into a strange house with her friends. (S)

8

8.05 Casualty Louise is shocked to discover the identity of Jez's secret lover. (S)

9

9.00 Michael McIntyre: Happy & Glorious The comedian once again takes aim at some of the absurdities of everyday life, in a stand-up performance recorded at the O2. (S)

10

10.00 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.20 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)

11

11.40 Murder in Successville DI Sleet enlists the aid of Lorraine Kelly to hunt a radioactive monster. (S)

AFTER **12**

12.10 FILM Flatliners (1990) (15) Supernatural thriller, starring Kiefer Sutherland. (S) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.05** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Japan's Northern Wilderness, 6.25pm

8.20 Talking Pictures: Musicals (S)(R) **9.05 FILM Silk Stockings (1957) (U)** (S) **11.00 Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape** (S)(R) **12.00 Great British Menu** (S)(R) **1.30 FILM 4 for Texas (1963) (PG)** (S) **3.20 Trust Me, I'm A Vet** (S)(R) **4.20 Flog It!** (S)(R) **4.55 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **5.25 Springwatch in Japan: Cherry Blossom Time** (S)(R) **6.25 Japan's Northern Wilderness** (S)

7.20 Trump on Culture: Brave New World? The potential cultural impact of Donald Trump's plans to scrap federal funding for the arts in the US. (S)

8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland The rise of the seaside as a popular tourist destination. Last in the series. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army (S)(R)

9.00 FILM Nightcrawler (2014) (15) Premiere. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo. (S)

10.50 QI XL With Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy. (S)

11.35 Versailles Princess Palatine gets a cold reception in the bed of her new husband Philippe; (S)(R) Inside Versailles. (S)(R)

12.35 FILM The Big Kahuna (1999) (15) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey. (S) **2.00** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Britain's Got Talent, 8pm

8.30 Weekend (S) **9.25 ITV Racing: The Opening Show** (S) **10.20 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **11.20 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.25 Bigheads** (S)(R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket** (S) **4.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** (S)(R) **4.30 Catchphrase** (S)(R) **5.15 Britain's Got More Talent** (S) **6.15 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.25 ITV News** (S) **6.45 Take Me Out** (S)

8.00 Britain's Got Talent More would-be stars demonstrate their unique talents to the judges, as the fourth round of auditions begins. (S)

9.15 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show New series. (S)
9.45 FILM The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Comedy, starring Steve Carell and Catherine Keener. (S)

10.45 ITV News; Weather (S)

11.05 FILM The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Continued. (S)

12.15 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen

Channel 4

The Restoration Man, 7pm

7.10 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.25 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.25 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.25 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S)(R) **12.55 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Big House, Little House** (S) **5.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 The Restoration Man George Clarke revisits Dave and Margaret Hedley. (S)

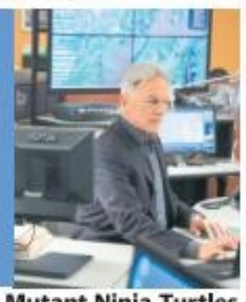
8.00 Walking Through Time Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge and Professor Adrian Lister visit Shropshire. (S)(R)

9.00 FILM The Fault in Our Stars (2014) (12) Premiere. . Romantic drama, starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. (S)

11.35 FILM Ghost (1990) (12) Romantic fantasy, starring Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze. (S)

1.45 The 80s: Ten Years That Changed Britain (S)(R) **3.05** Hollyoaks (S)(R) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (S)(R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location (S)(R)

Channel 5


NCIS, 7.45pm

10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.35 Access** (S)(R) **10.40 Caught on Camera** (S)(R) **11.00 Polic Interceptors** (S)(R) **12.00 On Benefits The Bargain Queen** (S)(R) **1.00 On Benefits: Breadline Brummies** (S)(R) **2.00 On Benefits: Cash-Strapped Couples** (S)(R) **3.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R) **6.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

7.00 NCIS: Los Angeles A former marine is suspected of creating a chemical bomb. (S)
7.45 NCIS A US Navy Public Affairs Officer is killed. (S)

8.45 FILM Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991) (PG) Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. (S)

12.15 SuperCasino 3.10 FILM Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (2009) (12) Crime thriller remake, starring Michael Douglas. (S) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Fleur East: The Hot Desk **6.10** Emmerdale **8.35** Coronation Street **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.25** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** Take Me Out **2.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **3.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **4.10** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson. **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** FILM: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) (U) Concluded. **6.25** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) (PG) Concluded. **8.15** Scorpion **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.50** FILM: Delivery Man (2013) (12) Comedy drama remake, starring Vince Vaughn. **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** FILM: Delivery Man (2013) (12) **2.45** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Murder, She Wrote **8.45** FILM: Forever Young (1992) (PG) Romantic sci-fi drama, with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. **9.45** FYI Daily **9.50** FILM: Forever Young (1992) (PG) Concluded. **10.50** Goodbye Mr Chips **12.50** Wycliffe **1.55** Lewis **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** The BBC at War **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **11.45** Genesis: Together & Apart **1.20** TOTP2: Genesis **2.05** Prog at the BBC **3.05** Sounds of the Eighties **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.25** The Goldbergs **7.35** Made in Chelsea **8.35** Melissa & Joey **11.00** The Goldbergs **12.30** FILM: Astro Boy (2009) (PG) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **2.15** FILM: The Net (1995) (12) Thriller, starring Sandra Bullock. **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Hanna (2011) (12) Action thriller, starring Saoirse Ronan. **11.10** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Black-ish **5.05** Charmed

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.35** Location, Location, Location **12.35** Coast vs Country **1.40** Four in a Bed **4.20** Come Dine with Me **6.55** Nazi Megastructures **8.00** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **9.00** What Destroyed the Hindenburg? **10.00** The World's Most Extreme **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.10** Father Ted **1.15** Nazi Megastructures **2.20** Hitler: The Rise and Fall **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Rugrats Movie (1999) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Elizabeth Daily. **1.00** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) (U) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **2.40** Short Circuit (1986) (PG) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. **4.40** A Thousand Words (2012) (12) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **6.35** Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (12) Comedy, with Robin Williams. **9.00** Aliens (1986) (18) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Sigourney Weaver. **12.05** The Woman in Black: Angel of Death (2014) (15) Horror sequel, starring Helen McCrory and Jeremy Irvine. **2.00** American Mary (2012) (18) Thriller, starring Katharine Isabelle. **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Lizard Lick Towing **7.35** Traffic Cops **8.00** Top Gear USA Special **9.00** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Traffic Cops **1.00** Sin City Motors **3.00** FILM: Kelly's Heroes (1970) (PG) Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **6.00** Top Gear **7.00** Red Dwarf **9.00** FILM: Demolition Man (1993) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. **11.15** Live at the Apollo **12.10** QI XL **2.10** Red Dwarf **3.20** Room 101 **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Secret Army **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Secret Army **5.00** Open All Hours **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **2.00** Sharpe **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Big Town Dance **7.45** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **8.15** Game Changers **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Build-up to Manchester City v Crystal Palace. **12.30** Wild Things **1.30** Modern Family **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Supergirl **6.10** The Flash **7.05** MacGyver **8.00** Inside the Freemasons **9.00** Micky Flanagan Thinking Aloud **10.00** Jamestown **11.30** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.30** A League of Their Own **1.30** Arrow **3.30** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.30** Stop, Search, Seize **5.30** Ninja Warrior

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** Cold Case **4.00** House **6.00** Regarding Susan Sontag **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.00** FILM: Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief (2015) (15) Documentary exploring the history and actions of the Church of Scientology's leaders. **12.15** Real Time with Bill Maher **1.25** The Circus: Inside the Greatest Politica Show on Earth **2.00** The Borgias **3.05** Girls **4.15** Fish Town **5.10** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

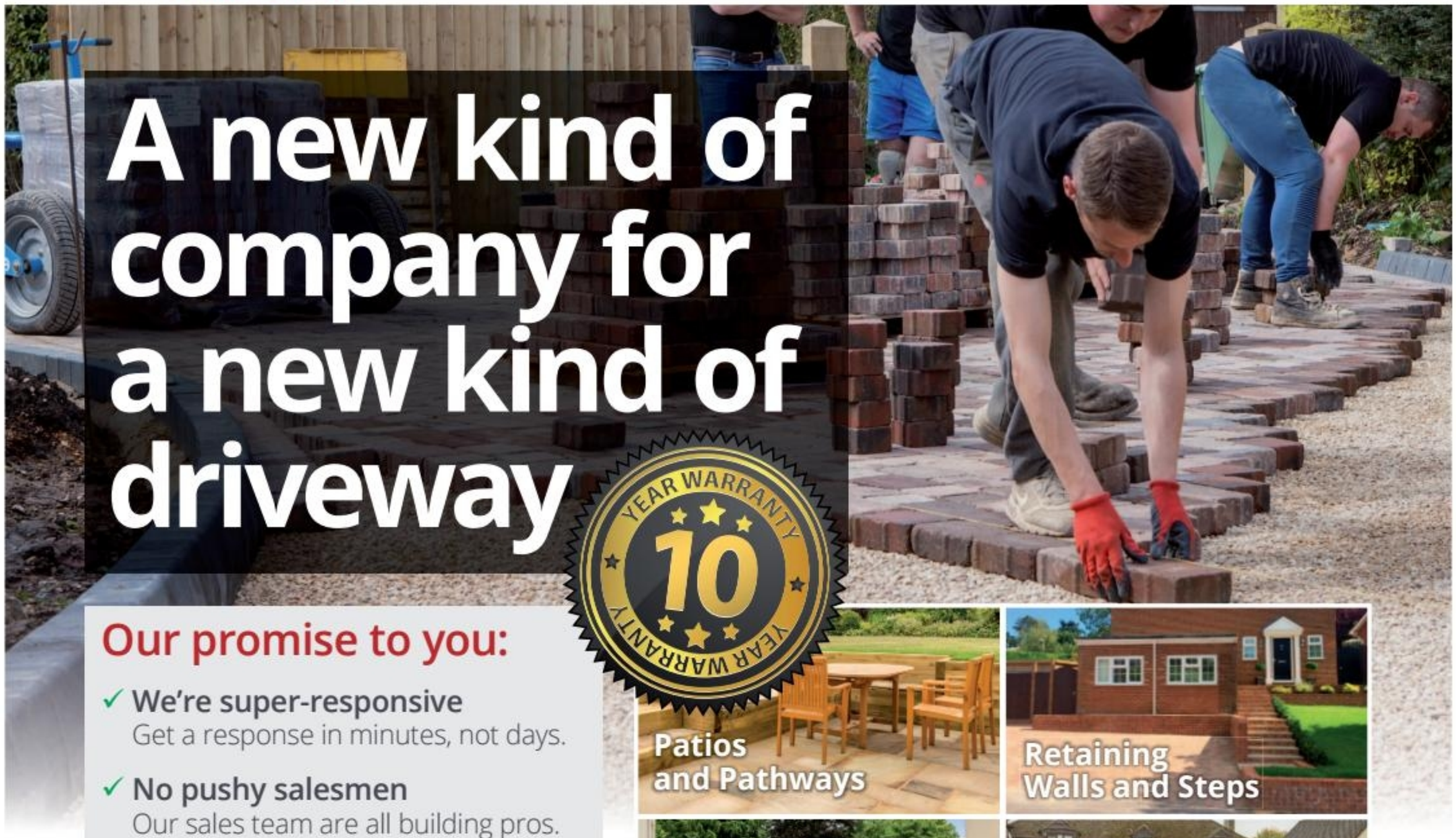
6.00 Countryside 999 **7.00** Extreme Makeover: Home Edition **9.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes **4.00** FILM: Ella Enchantec (2004) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Anne Hathaway. **6.00** My Family **8.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Jason Manford **9.00** FILM: Get Sma (2008) (12) Spy comedy, starring Steve Carell. **11.15** Grimm **12.15** Inside the Ambulance **1.15** Code Black **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 TBA **7.25** The Two Ronnies **9.00** Only Fools and Horses **11.00** Last of the Summer Wine **1.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.00** Black Books **12.05** Dylan Moran: Aim Low **1.45** Human Remains **2.20** The Thick of It **2.50** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **6.45** Premier League Legends **7.15** Game Changers **7.45** Premier League Legends **8.15** Premier League Preview **8.45** The Fantasy Football Clu **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Build-up Manchester City v Crystal Palace. **12.30** Live Premier League. Manchester City v Crystal Palace (kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFI A match from the final day of the regular season in League Two (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** Premier League 100 Club **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League 100 Club **12.00** Premier League Highlights



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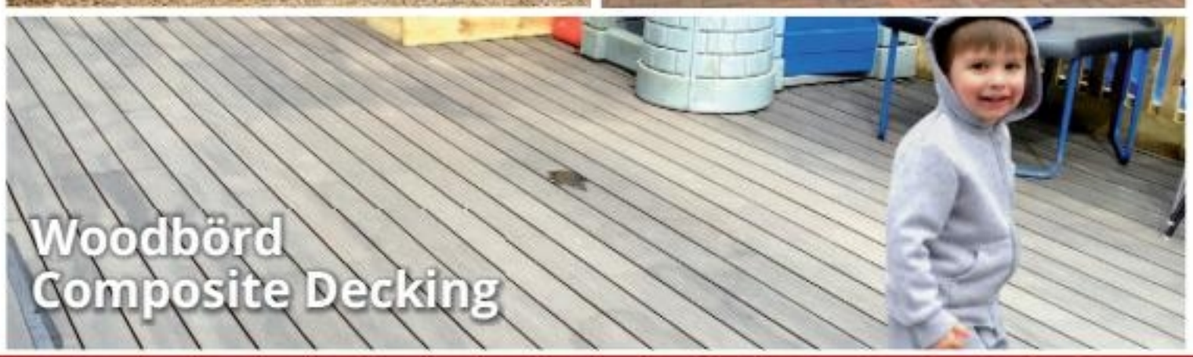

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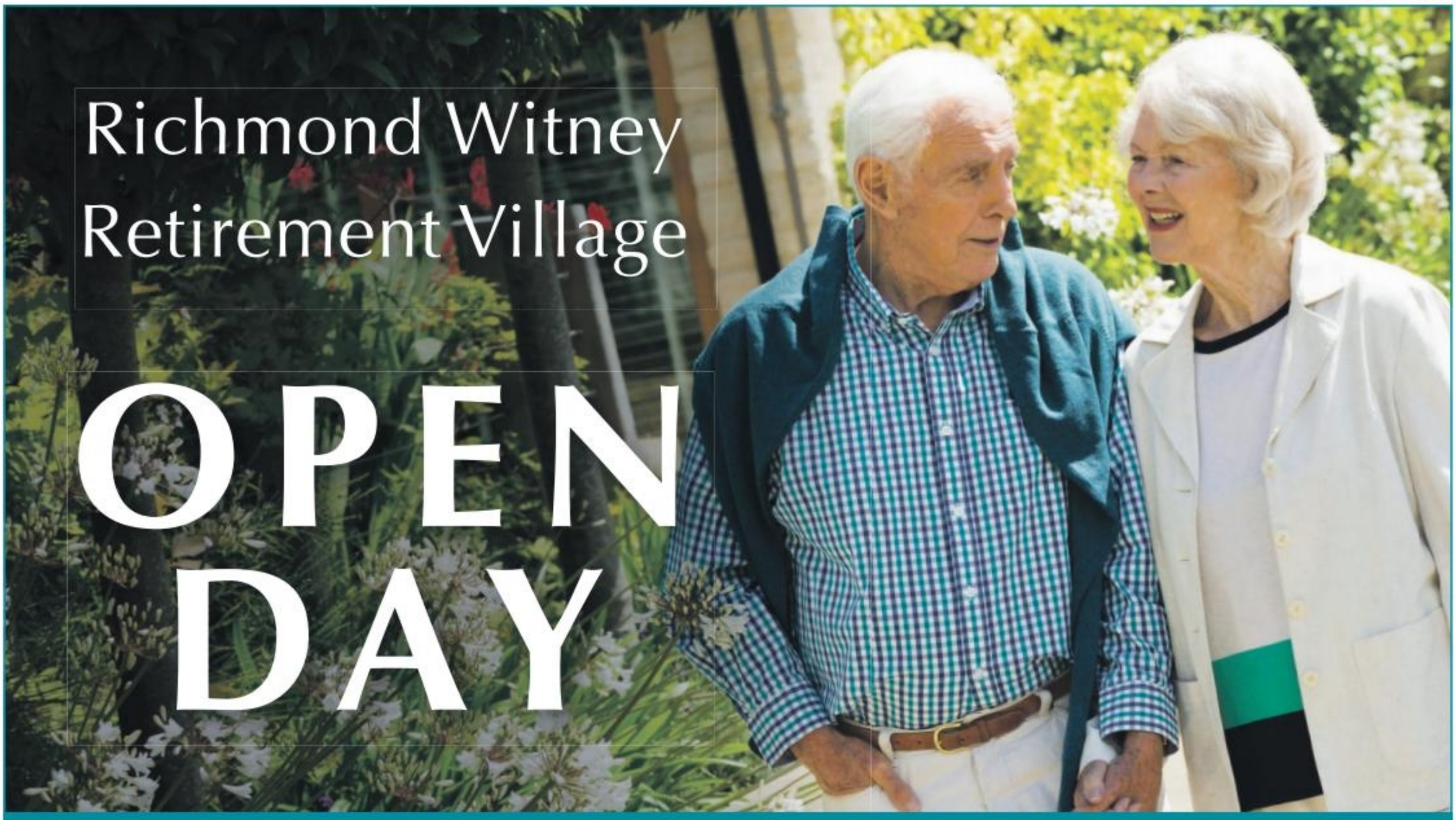

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Sunday May 7th

DAYTIME

BBC1

Antiques Roadshow, 7pm

10.00 The Big Questions (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.00 Points of View** (S) **4.15 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.50 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **5.35 BBC News** (S) **5.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.00 Countryfile** (S)

7.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from Ightham Mote, a medieval manor near Sevenoaks. (S)

8.00 Babs Biopic of Barbara Windsor, following her life between 1943 and 1993, including her evacuation in the Second World War. (S)

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Maria goes into labour. (S)(R)

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action. (S)

11.40 The Women's Football Show A look at the biggest issues in the women's game. (S)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Great British Menu, 11.15pm

7.00 The Instant Gardener (S)(R) **7.45 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **8.15 The Beechgrove Garden** (S) **8.45 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.15 Great British Menu** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 Natural World** (S)(R) **2.00 Equestrian: Badminton Horse Trials** (S) **4.00 Rowing World Cup** (S) **5.30 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.55 FILM The Terminal (2004) (12)** (S)

8.00 Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life New series. The first of three programmes about the country's wildlife, landscape and culture. (S)

9.00 Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay New series. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne explore South East Asia, travelling more than 3,000 miles from Malaysia to Myanmar. (S)

10.00 FILM Kajaki (2014) (15) Premiere. Fact-based thriller, starring David Elliot. (S)

11.40 FILM The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012) (15) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber. (S)

1.40 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.40** Holby City (S)(R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

The Durrells, 8pm

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 Countrywise** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **11.00 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **12.00 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.10 Britain's Got Talent** (S)(R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket** (S) **4.05 FILM Diamonds Are Forever (1971) (PG)** James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. (S) **6.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.40 ITV News** (S)

7.00 Bigheads Jason Manford hosts the game show in which contestants face physical challenges while wearing giant model heads. (S)

8.00 The Durrells Louisa struggles to adapt to Larry moving out, and learns some shocking truths. (S)

9.00 Grantchester The village is rocked by a series of robberies. Leonard witnesses the first raid and is able to identify one of the criminals – only for the man in question to turn up dead. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 Peston on Sunday Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (S)(R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union Highlights of the final round of top-flight fixtures. (S)

12.15 Lethal Weapon (S)(R) **1.05** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights (S) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Escape to Costa Rica, 7pm

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 Eat the Week** (S) **1.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **2.30 FILM Ghostbusters II (1989) (PG)** Supernatural comedy sequel, starring Bill Murray. (S) **4.40 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **5.40 George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (S)(R) **6.35 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 Escape to Costa Rica Gaia Vince visits the exclusion zone of an active volcano. (S)

8.00 FILM Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) (12) Superhero adventure, starring Chris Evans and Hugo Weaving. (S)

10.25 FILM Prometheus (2012) (15) A spacecraft travels to another world in search of aliens that may have created the human race. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Noomi Rapace. (S)

12.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **1.35** Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes (S)(R) **2.25** The Break Up (S)(R) **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **3.40** Gillette World Sport (S) **4.10** Mobil 1 The Grid (S)(R)

Channel 5

When Magic Goes Wrong, 9pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **10.55 Caught on Camera** (S)(R) **11.25 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.20 FILM Cats & Dogs (2001) (PG)** (S) **3.00 Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **4.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3** (S)(R) **5.00 FILM Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (2012) (PG)** (S)

7.00 Cricket on 5 England v Ireland. Highlights of the second contes in the two-match series, which took place at Lord's. (S)

8.00 Football on 5: The Championship Action from the final round of regular-season fixtures. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 When Magic Goes Wrong Illusions that went spectacularly badly, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo and Paul Daniels. (S)(R

10.00 Comedy Gold: TV's Funniest Ever Sketches Compilation of classic comedy sketches from TV's most popular stars. (S)

11.25 Football on 5: The Play-offs Action from the League One play-off semi-finals. (S)

12.05 FILM Bangkok Dangerous (2008) (18) (S) **1.45** SuperCasino **3.10** Top 20 Funniest (S) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.25** Emmerdale **8.50** Coronation Street **11.20** Take Me Out **12.40** FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U) Fantasy comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. **1.40** FYI Daily **1.45** FILM: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) (U) Concluded. **2.30** FILM: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) (12) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock. **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35** FILM: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) (12) Concluded. **4.45** Britain's Got Talent **6.00** Britain's Got More Talent **7.05** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Concluded. **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Jonas Blue: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Goodbye Mr Chips **7.50** Heartbeat **9.55** Murder, She Wrote **12.00** FILM: Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) (PG) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **1.40** A Touch of Frost **3.45** Foyle's War **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** Cameraman to the Queen **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.05** Lewis **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Birth of British Music **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Betroffenheit from Sadler's Wells **10.50** Seven Ages of Starlight **12.20** The Story of Maths **1.20** The BBC at War **2.20** Britain's Nuclear Secrets: Inside Sellafield **3.20** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **6.55** Hollyoaks **9.25** Made in Chelsea **10.30** The Goldbergs **12.00** Black-ish **12.30** Baby Daddy **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** New Girl **2.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.40** The Big Bang Theory **4.40** FILM: The Spy Next Door (2010) (PG) Comedy, starring Jackie Chan. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** Rude Tube: Love Bytes **1.10** First Dates **2.15** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Coast vs Country **9.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb **11.00** Grand Designs New Zealand **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Make My Body Better with Davina McCall **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Sarah Millican: Thoroughly Modern Millican Live **11.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** A Very British Brothel **1.15** Make My Body Better with Davina McCall **2.20** Man Down **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 12 Angry Men (1957) (U) Legal drama, starring Henry Fonda. **1.00** Gulliver's Travels (2010) (PG) Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. **2.35** Rugrats Go Wild (2003) (U) Children's animated adventure, with the voice of Nancy Cartwright. **4.10** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) (PG) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes. **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010) (PG) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. **9.00** A Million Ways to Die in the West (2014) (15) Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane. **11.15** Magic Mike (2012) (15) Comedy drama, starring Channing Tatum. **1.30** The Runaways (2010) (15) Biopic of the 1970s rock band, starring Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning. **3.45** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Traffic Cops **9.00** Top Gear **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **1.00** Lizard Lick Towing **2.00** Deadly 60 **4.00** Top Gear **7.00** Motorway Cops **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Crackanory **11.40** Room 101 **1.00** QI XL **2.00** Taskmaster **2.50** QI XL **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.05 Steptoe and Son **8.00** The Bill **11.00** Bleak House **3.40** Catherine Cookson's A Dinner of Herbs **6.40** Call the Midwife **8.00** The Red Tent **9.00** Silent Witness **11.20** Spooks **1.45** Call the Midwife **3.00** The Red Tent **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** Futurama **9.30** Supergirl **10.30** The Flash **11.30** WWE Raw Hlts **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Liverpool v Southampton. **1.30** Futurama **2.30** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** Matt Damon Touchscreen **12.00** MacGyver **1.00** Arrow **2.00** Legends **3.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Ninja Warrior

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer **8.00** The West Wing **1.00** House **3.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Real Time with Bill Maher **10.10** Veep **10.45** The Trip to Spain **11.20** Billions **12.30** Guerrilla **1.30** Westworld **2.40** The Borgias **3.40** Girls **4.10** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.10 Countryside 999 **7.00** Beverly Hills Pawn **7.30** My Dream Home **8.30** Celebrity MasterChef **1.10** FILM: Free Willy (1993) (PG) Family drama, starring Jason James Richter. **3.20** FILM: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) (U) Adventure sequel, starring Daryl Sabara. **5.00** Outnumbered **7.00** One Born Every Minute **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Jason Manford **10.00** Doctor Foster **11.20** Louis Theroux: America's Most Dangerous Pets **12.20** Outnumbered **1.00** Code Black **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Butterflies **7.40** One Foot in the Grave **9.05** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.00** I'm Alan Partridge **12.20** The Thick of It **1.00** The League of Gentlemen **1.40** Human Remains **2.15** Bill Hicks – One Night Stand **2.55** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League 100 Club **6.30** Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Liverpool v Southampton. **1.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Liverpool v Southampton (kick-off 1.30pm). **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Arsenal v Manchester United (kick-off 4.00pm). **6.15** Live EFL. Coverage of a League One play-off semi-final second-leg match (kick-off 6.30pm). **9.00** Fight Night **11.00** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League 100 Club **1.00** Premier League Highlights **2.00** Goals on Sunday **3.00** Premier League 100 Club **4.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Football's Greatest Teams **5.30** Football's Greatest Players

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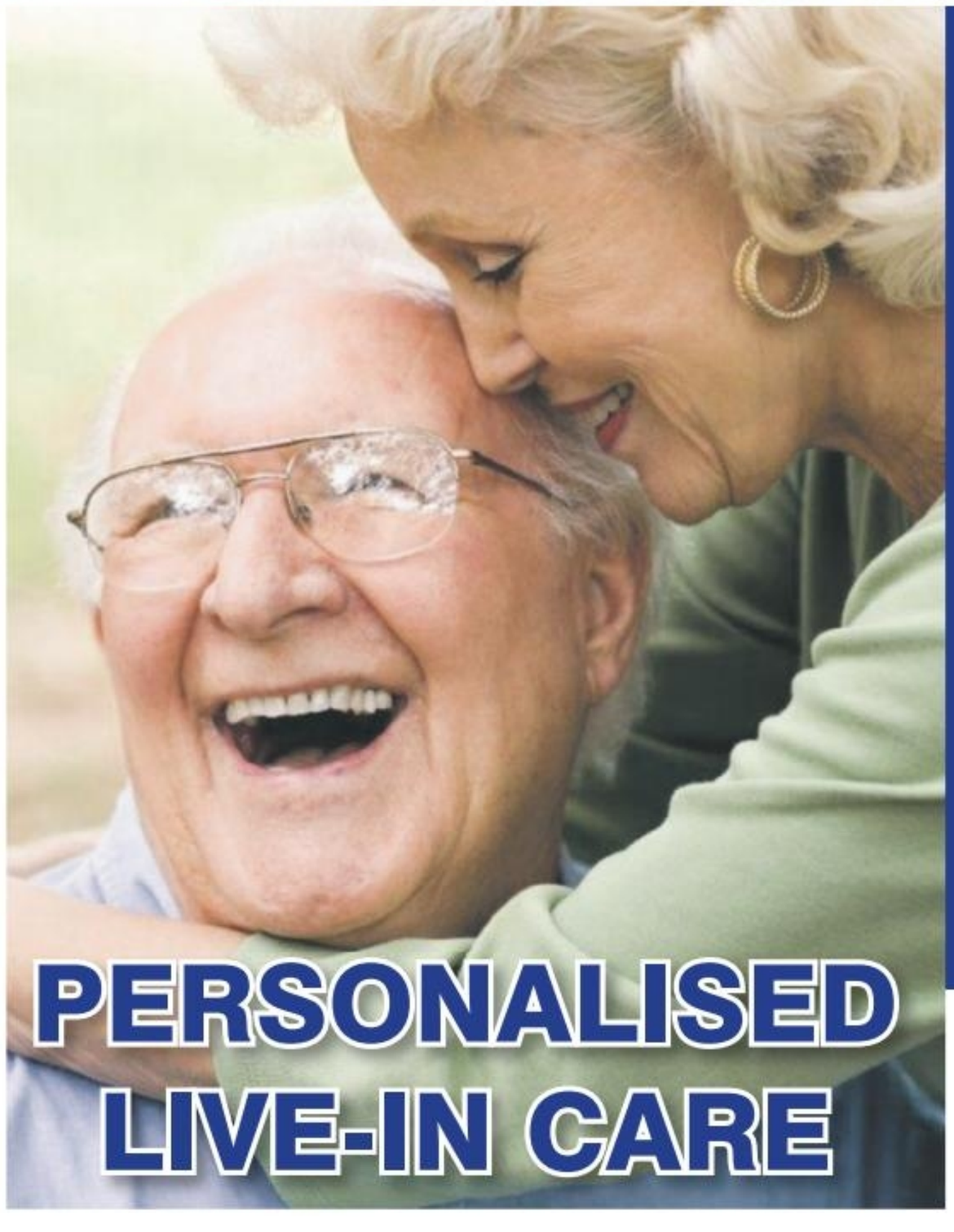

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

A diary of different love

By Samantha McGregor

I CAPTURE the Castle, a story of first love, unrequited love and married love told in a new musical, comes to the Oxford stage.

Dodie Smith's first novel is brought to life on stage at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday May 16 to Saturday May 20.

Set in 1930s bohemian England, I Capture the Castle is a story about family and self-discovery.

It is about first loves, unrequited loves and married love, shaped by a delectable and uplifting score and performed by a multitalented cast.

Cassandra is 17. She's writing a diary about her eccentric family including her irritating elder sister Rose, her unconventional stepmother Topaz, her orphaned admirer Stephen and her novelist father James, who hasn't written a word in years.

They are behind with the rent for the tumbledown castle that seemed so romantic when they moved in.

The roof is leaking, it never stops raining and the family is surviving on oatcakes and eggs.

But the new landlord is a wealthy young American, with an attractive younger brother, and spring is in the air. Perhaps things are about to change.

Luke Dale, Shona White and Julia St John in I Capture the Castle Picture: Richard Lakos

With script and lyrics by Teresa Howard, music by Steven Edis and direction by Brigid Larmour, this period musical encapsulates the spirit of this coming-of-age novel.

I Capture the Castle was made into a film in 2003 starring Romola Garai, Bill Nighy, Rose Byrne and Tara Fitzgerald.

British author Smith wrote the novel during the Second World War while she was living in California with her husband. She was also a playwright and later penned the classic A Hundred and One Dalmatians.

Tickets for I Capture the Castle at Oxford Playhouse start at £11.50 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or via oxfordplayhouse.com

Take three steps...

MUSIC: 1970s band Showaddywaddy are at Oxford's New Theatre as part of a 40th anniversary tour.

The band has sold more than 20 million records and their show on Friday will feature some of their biggest hits including Under The Moon of Love, Three Steps to Heaven, Hey Rock & Roll, When, Blue Moon and Pretty Little Angel Eyes.

Tickets from £22, for more information view atgtickets.com/oxford

Russell re-born

COMEDY: Controversial comedian Russell Brand makes a return to the New Theatre, Oxford, on May 10 with his new stand-up tour.

Called 'Re-birth' Brand asks what is real, who are we, where did this baby come from, while unravelling the matrix of modern media, politics, sex, fatherhood and death.

For more information go to atgtickets.com/oxford

Tour continues

THEATRE: The tour of Death of a Salesman will continue despite the death of Tim Piggott-Smith last month.

Nicholas Woodeson will take the lead role of Willy Loman when the show comes to the Oxford Playhouse from July 11 to 15.

Now is the time to foster… now is the time to care.

The pressure to recruit new foster carers is ongoing. Nationally fostering services have seen a rise in the number of children and young people needing foster care.

Locally in Oxfordshire we have seen the number of looked after children increase to over 650. We need to recruit more foster carers to keep up with the continuous demands and we need YOUR help.

There are children from many different backgrounds needing to be fostered, what is important is that you can meet the needs of the child. The children vary in age from babies to teenagers and may stay with you for a few days or even years. Foster carers give them safe and caring home during this time.

Teenagers – over 50 percent of children in care in Oxfordshire are 10 years and over with teenage placements being a priority for recruitment.

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Come along to find out more and meet the team on Wednesday 10th May from 6.30 to 8.00pm at Nash Court, 4440 John Smith Drive, Oxford Business Park, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2RU.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Sisters show is a class act

By Samantha McGregor

THE hit musical comedy Sister Act is coming to Oxford this month as part of a nationwide tour.

This new production has been directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, best known as a judge on BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing, and stars Alexandra Burke as Deloris Van Cartier.

The musical takes to the stage at Oxford's New Theatre from Monday, May 15 to Saturday, May 20.

Joining Burke is Joanna Francis as Michelle, Joe Vetch as Eddie, Karen Mann as Mother Superior and Liz Kitchen as Sister Mary Lazarus.

Based on the smash hit movie starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith, Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder.

Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a convent.

Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

Burke recently played Rachel Marron in the national tour of 'The Bodyguard', a part she also played in the West End.

She originally rose to fame after winning the fifth series of The X Factor. Her debut number one single Hallelujah sold over one million copies in the UK.

Joanna Francis has recently finished performing in the West End production of The Lion King.

And audiences watching Sister Act can keep the good times rolling at a post-show party on May 19, in the theatre's Piano Bar, which will feature live music from the LDN Party Band.

The band, which features five members of the smash hit musical company including Vetch, who plays Eddie, is an R&B/Soul septet with a broad repertoire of lively covers ranging from the 1960s to today.

For more information or tickets view atgtickets.com/oxford

Alexandra Burke as Deloris Van Cartier

That's predictable!

SHOW: Journalist, comedian and presenter Mark Thomas takes to the stage at the Chipping Norton Theatre with his new show Predictable, on Monday, May 8.

With few predicting the events of 2016, Thomas sets out to make his audience "futurologists" by collecting and examining his own predictions and those of his audiences before gambling on their outcome.

All tickets are £12 for the hour long show.

For more information go to chippingnortontheatre.com

Stories of species

SHOW: Professor Alice Roberts, best known to fans for BBC 2's Coast, The Incredible Human Journey and Horizon has announce a new UK tour, Tamed, in Autumn.

Join Alice as she delves into archaeology, history and genetics to reveal the amazing stories of the species that became our allies.

From dogs, cattle and horses to wheat, potatoes and apples, find out how taming these species has left its mark on them and us.

During the 23-date tour she will stop off in the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, on November 11.

For more information call 01793 524481 or view swindontheatres.co.uk

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PROPERTY WEEKLY

Thursday, May 4 - Wednesday, May 10, 2017

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

This property showcased courtesy of Davis Tate

South Stoke, Oxfordshire

With high vaulted ceilings and well-proportioned rooms filled with light, Ferry Lane Barn is a spacious family house full of character.

Substantial oak beams reflect its rural origins and contrast beautifully with the exceptionally bright contemporary interiors with full length windows and doors to the terrace and garden, perfect for entertaining.

The gravelled walled courtyard has electric gates into the spacious drive. Decking, edged with box hedging, leads to porch and to the reception hall.

With a polished limestone floor, the hall has double doors to the drawing room. This is an extraordinary 40' long and has polished floorboards, heavy oak beams and double doors to the terrace and garden.

• *Continues on page 36*

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Conveyancing Quality

News of another election should not derail any upcoming property plans

In 2015, we had the general election. A little over a year later, we were back at the polls for the EU referendum. And just five weeks ago Article 50 was triggered setting us on the path to leave the EU. So that's us done with political uncertainty, right?

Wrong – well, at least, not necessarily.

Just two weeks ago, and seemingly out of the blue, Theresa May announced that there would be a snap general election on June 8. However, whilst this undoubtedly came as a surprise, we must not let it destabilise the property market.

Yes, elections can lead to uncertainty and that can affect confidence, but let us not lose sight of how the property market works. It is driven by demand and that currently remains extremely high due to a lack of supply in the market.

There are also the nuances of this particular election to consider. Simply, the Conservative government hopes to secure a stronger working majority in June. This would reduce its reliance on the eurosceptics within the party and allow the party to deliver a softer Brexit, which is likely to be welcomed by the economic system.

So in fact, so far the situation appears decidedly more positive than you may have thought it would be.

In fact, properties coming on to the market over the last few months have tended to sell quickly and in many instances, for more than they've been marketed at.

This means that if you've considered a sale and have an eye for showing off your property in its very best light, now could in fact prove to be a great time to sell your property. This does, however, come with a word of caution – but not one in any way linked to the impending election.

Market conditions, as we've acknowledged above, are currently as they are due to a lack of supply in the market. There simply aren't enough properties coming on to the market so don't wait until you've found the home of your dreams before deciding to sell yours. Demand is such that you're likely to miss the boat by taking this approach.

Andrews prides itself on taking a consultation, not valuation, approach towards those considering a house sale so if you're wondering whether now is a good time to market your property why not drop in to your local Andrews branch - there are five across Oxfordshire - where the team will advise you on the likely value of your home, the local market conditions and how you can best present it to achieve a sale at the price you want.

You can also visit our website for a wide range of advice and guidance on the house selling process: andrews-online.co.uk.

Stunning five-bed barn with big garden now on sale

• *From front page*

Steps lead up to the triple aspect sitting room with wood burning stove, polished floor and doors to the garden.

The kitchen/breakfast room has a wall of windows and doors to the terrace. There is a range of 'unfitted' solid wood painted wall and floor cabinets, a range cooker, fridge and freezer and dishwasher, and plenty of room for a central table.

The well fitted utility room has plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer and there is a cloakroom.

At the end of the building is the family room, currently used as a spacious study, with a wall of windows and doors to the terrace. There is also access to the triple garage.

Stairs lead to two bedrooms, one with en-suite bathroom and a further bathroom. Planning has been granted to create one large master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom with the addition of dormer windows. From the reception hall, stairs lead to three further double bedrooms, one with luxury en-suite shower room and a family bathroom.

From the lane, double electric gates lead to the large gravelled driveway and up to the triple garage. The traditional walled barnyard enclosure gives a fine backdrop to raised beds planted with perennial cottage plants and climbers. There is a sheltered kitchen garden and a brick garden outbuilding. One half has been converted to a gym or home office.

The magnificent white marble terrace, inset with outdoor lighting, wraps around the house; doors open from all principal ground floor rooms onto the terrace making it ideal for entertaining.

There is a large area of lawn, bushes and shrubs give privacy and seclusion and a 'secret' sunken garden is a fine sun trap. The entire garden amounts to one third of an acre.

For more information, contact selling agent Davis Tate Goring, goring@davistate.com and 01491 873456. EPC rating D.

Homes can command an extra £50,000

Parents looking to buy a property close to a primary school rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted face paying a premium of more than £50,000.

New figures from Rightmove show the average asking price of homes in the successful admission zone of high-performing Grade 1 schools is £52,372 or 18 per cent higher than in areas around Grade 3 institutions.

There is also a 12 per cent (average of £37,000) hike in prices between properties near mid-range Grade 2 schools and those in Grade 1.

Kevin Shaw, national sales director at property specialist Leaders, says: "With 86 per cent of 'outstanding' primary schools already oversubscribed, living in an area with the best chance of being accepted by one has become a priority for many parents.

"Living close to the right school has long been an important factor for home hunters, but the latest figures suggest people are now willing to pay even more for the privilege. Indeed, many movers admit to compromising on other issues in order to live close to a school above all else.

"Buyers should remember that some of the top schools have a very small successful admission area – sometimes measured in metres – so they should always check whether a property was in this area in the last academic year before completing a purchase."

Parents in the West Midlands face paying the largest premium to live near a Grade 1 school, with a mark-up of 32 per cent in comparison with properties close to Grade 3 schools. It was followed by the north-west (27 per cent) and Yorkshire and Humber (22 per cent). The smallest premiums were found in the East Midlands, north-east and London (all 13 per cent).

Kevin adds: "With incredible demand for properties close to the best schools and an overall lack of supply in the market also helping to push up prices, those who live within a successful admission zone may wish to consider the benefits of selling – particularly if they no longer have children of a school age.

"Many are likely to be surprised by just how much their home is now worth and how high demand from parents can help them to get a great price."

For more information on selling or letting a property contact your local Leaders branch or visit leaders.co.uk.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Artist's impression

King's Court, Carterton
Homes from £185,000

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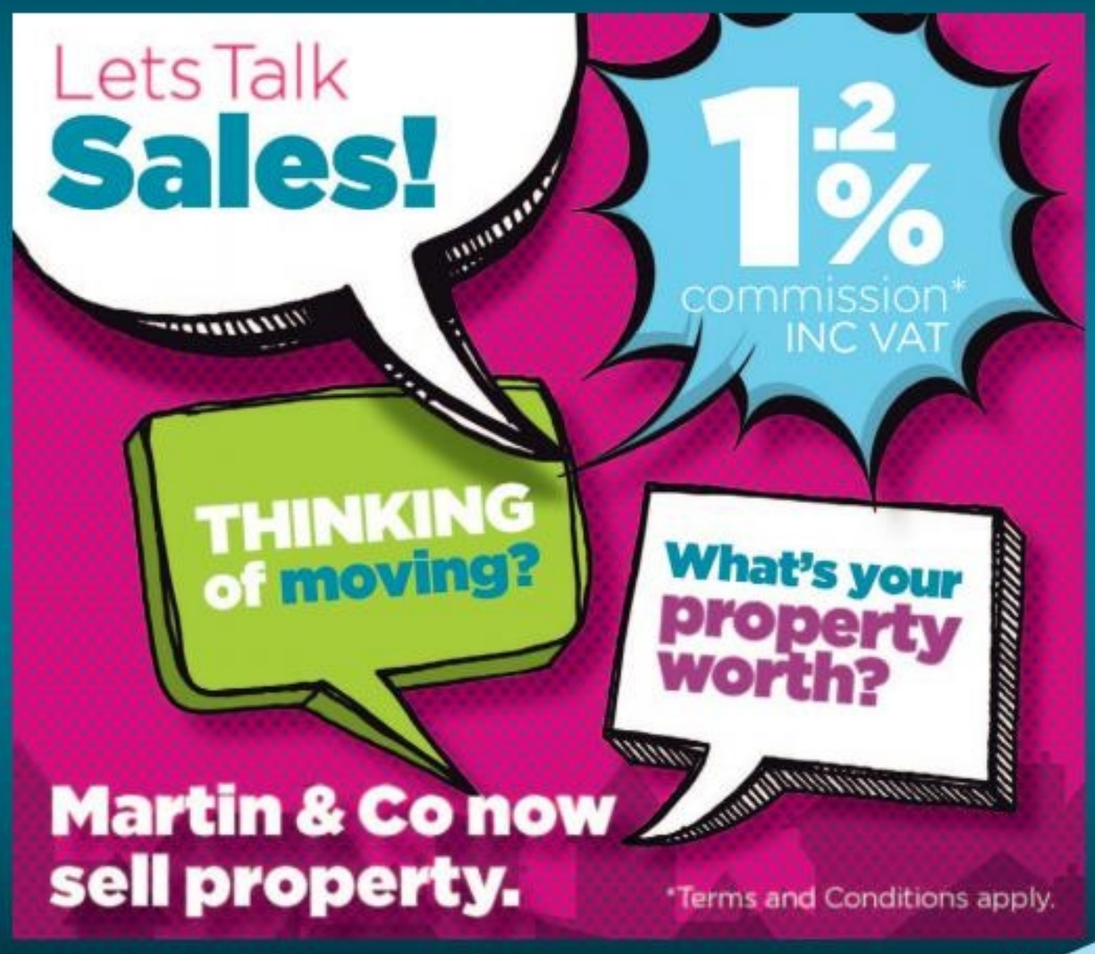

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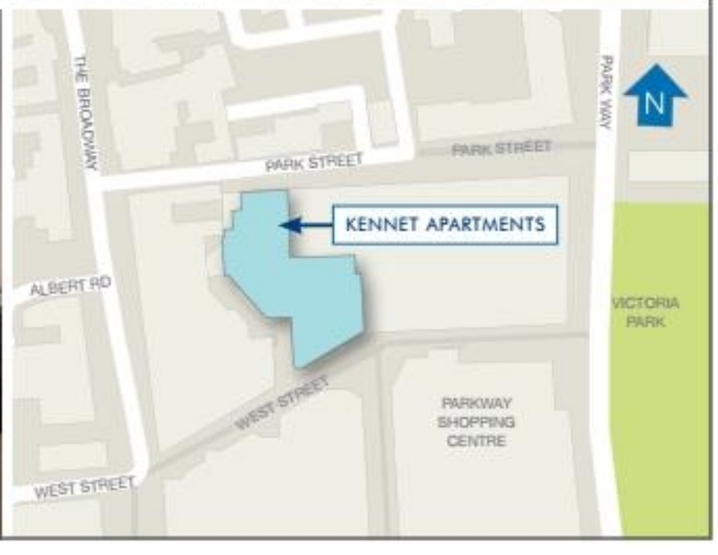

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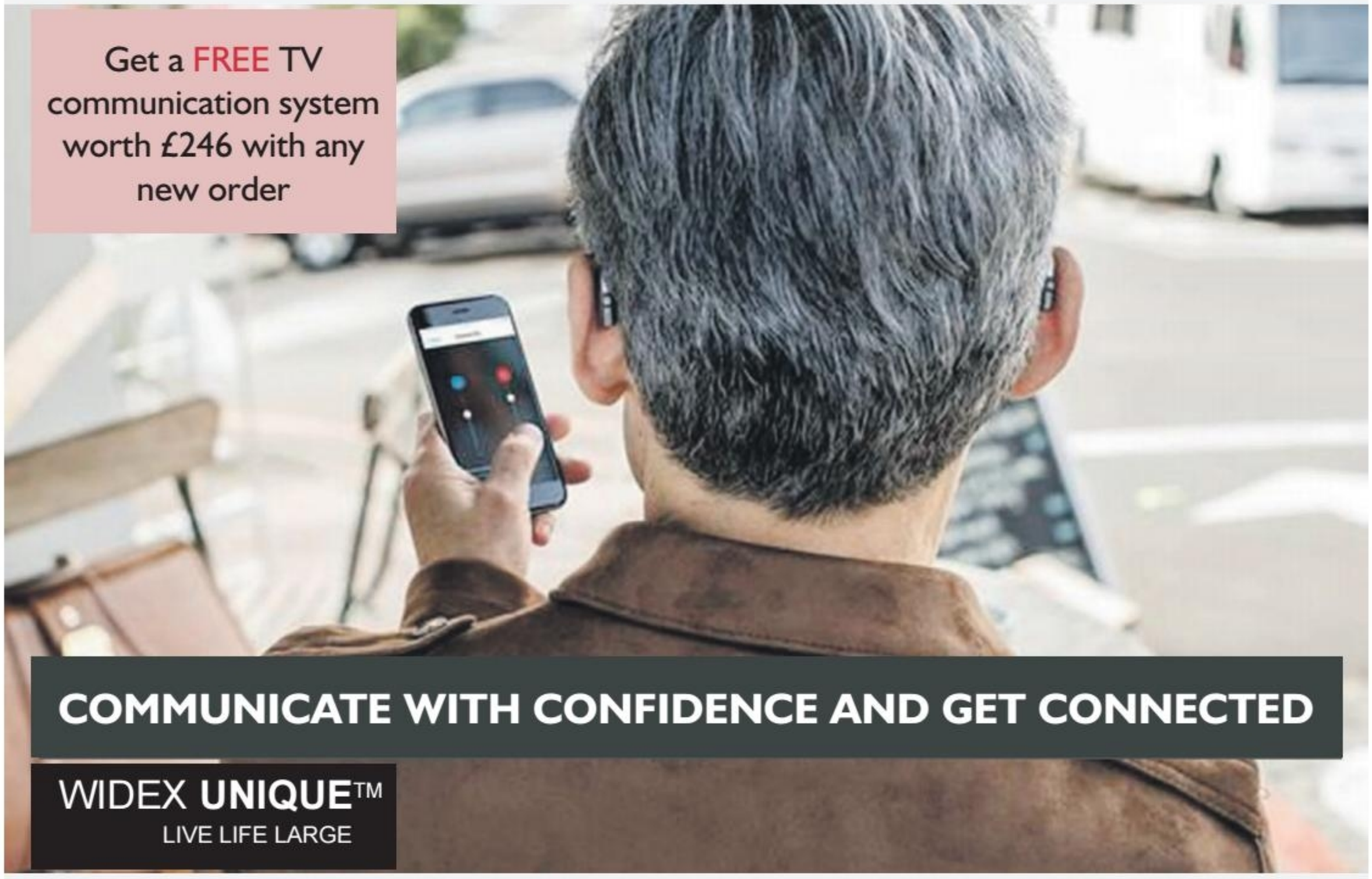

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Advertorial MAY 2017

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The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

From Genesis to next generation

By Samantha McGregor

IN 1973 John Lennon talked about his support of up-and-coming band Genesis – four decades later it's still a career highlight for guitarist Steve Hackett.

And later this month, Hackett and his band will perform some of those glorious tunes to fans at the New Theatre.

It also marks the 40th anniversary of the release of the last Genesis album Hackett worked on - Wind and Wuthering – before he left for a successful solo career.

The show features a string of Genesis gems, including favourites such as The Musical Box, Inside & Out and One for the Vine.

It will also include plenty of classic Hackett from his solo catalogue, including popular tunes such as The Steppes, Serpentine, Every Day and the first ever live performance of 'Rise Again' from his 1999 album Darktown.

Steve will also be introducing fans to music from his new studio album The Night Siren.

With a tour of Europe and the USA under his belt, he is back in the UK for the second leg.

Before heading to Belfast he took time out to talk to the Oxfordshire Guardian.

Asked what fans could expect, Steve said: "It's been an extraordinary journey – the last album I did with Genesis was 40 years ago - Wind and Wuthering – and we are celebrating that album. It's one of my favourite albums.

"The show is half solo and half Genesis – I want to give people everything.

"I have to say the sound is better than ever – the technology allows us to do it better."

He is working with band Kajagoogoo.

Recalling his time with Genesis, he said: "When we started out the band was doing free concerts and we hadn't done anything in the USA, and hadn't been to Europe.

"I saw the growth to playing to 60,000 people in London. The band superseded all expectations.

"Eventually I felt the need to work with other people, there was no disagreement about music, I felt I must have autonomy."

He went on to have a successful solo career as well as work with greats such as Randy Crawford, Richie Havens and more recently Nick Beggs, formerly of 1980s band Kajagoogoo.

But he told the Guardian: "In 1973 John Lennon said we were one of the bands he was listening to at the time – when we could barely get a gig on the US. I'm very proud of that."

Catch Steve Hackett and his band at Oxford's New Theatre on Saturday, May 13.

A show of hands for singer Miranda

MIRANDA Sykes, the acclaimed singer and bassist with 'Show of Hands' is returning to her roots.

After a career spanning over 20 years, during which time she has played with many of the top musicians and singers within the folk world, she will be touring as she started out, one woman, one bass, and one guitar.

Later this month, she will perform at St Mary's Church Garsington, Oxfordshire, on Friday, May 19.

Her show will feature songs from her debut solo album, Borrowed Places, in which she has drawn inspiration primarily from the songs and landscape of her native Lincolnshire but seen through the eyes of someone who has lived away for many years.

Talking about the new album, Miranda said: "The themes are not specific; the land changes, it grows, it shrinks, it adapts and it resists but most of all it lives and breathes."

The album was released on May 1, alongside a UK tour to promote it.

For more information go to mirandasykes.com or for tickets for the Garsington gig call 01865 368262.

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Sat, May 6
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These popular tunes are performed by a quartet of singers accompanied by a virtuosic pianist and are woven together into a romantic comedy of errors – think Bridget Jones goes to the opera – which will surprise, delight and entertain.

Sat, May 6
O2 Academy, Oxford
WARD THOMAS
Chart toppers Ward Thomas return to the stage for a full UK tour, including their biggest headline shows to date. 22-year-old twins Catherine and Lizzy made history with their stunning major label debut, Cartwheels, when it topped the UK album charts, becoming the first-ever UK country act to achieve the feat.

Mon, May 8, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Acclaimed stars of the West End stage, the Reduced Shakespeare Company are back with another barnstormingly irreverent and breathtakingly hilarious celebration of our cultural heritage – as seen through the eyes of three Americans wearing trainers.

Tue, May 9
O2 Academy, Oxford
J HUS
Taken from his anticipated debut album, J Hus has just dropped his new single, 'Did You See'. Nominated for Best Newcomer at The MOBO Awards in 2015, the rapper has spent 2017 collaborating with Dave, Nines' and Stormzy.

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Thu, May 11
The Beacon, Wantage
OBSESSION
Jude Law (The Young Pope, Closer, The Talented Mr Ripley) stars in the stage production of Obsession, broadcast live from the Barbican Theatre in London. Ivo van Hove (NT Live: A View from the Bridge, Hedda Gabler) directs this new stage adaptation of Luchino Visconti's 1943 film.

Fri, May 12
O2 Academy, Oxford
END OF AN ERA

Sat, May 13
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
KATY BRAND – I WAS A TEENAGE CHRISTIAN
Katy Brand's hit Edinburgh Festival show I Was a Teenage Christian is an honest, fascinating and funny exploration of her self-imposed conversion and total immersion in evangelical Christianity.

Sun, May 14
New Theatre, Oxford
PAUL RODGERS
Paul Rodgers legendary singer, songwriter and frontman for Free, Bad Company and The Firm has announced that he will be heading out across the UK this May on the FREE Spirit Tour performing songs strictly from the Free catalogue.

Mon, May 15 – Sat, May 20
The New Theatre, Oxford
SISTER ACT
Sister Act tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder. Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a Convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

Thu, May 16, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE COMET IS COMING

The Comet Is Coming support their Mercury-nominated debut album, Channel the Spirits. The band's intoxicating sound fuses elements of jazz, funk, electronica and psychedelic rock.

Thu, May 18, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE MISSION
The Mission embark on a UK tour in support of their new studio album, Another Fall From Grace.

Sun, May 21
Oxford University Parks
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SUMMER of MUSIC

Summer of Music

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

Found in the heart of Aylesbury, the Waterside Theatre boasts an eclectic line-up of live music this summer with something to suit every taste.

Some of the industry's most iconic acts are being played tribute too with King of Pop celebrating Michael Jackson on Wed 10 May, followed by winners of the National Tribute Awards, Mercury, celebrating Queen and their timeless, much-loved hits including Bohemian Rhapsody, We Will Rock You and many more.

Nostalgia is on the menu with Let's Twist Again (Say 27 May) delivering a show of great music, fun and laughter with song from Elvis, The Beatles, Sandie Shaw and Cilla to name a few, and shades and pork pie hats are at the ready for The Chicago Blues Brothers and their Back in Black Tour on Sat 13 May.

Classical fans need look no further as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra return with a concert featuring Schubert's Symphony No.8, Beethoven's dramatic Fourth Piano Concerto and Brahms' majestic and exhilarating Symphony No.4.

Also in the mix is one of RnB's finest, Alexander O'Neal (Fri 12 May). Alexander is taking to the stage with his 9-piece, all-star band in honour of his 1987 masterpiece, Hearsay. Widely regarded as one of the greatest RnB albums of all time, the evening is to include his much-loved classics such as Fake, Criticize and Never Knew Love Like This.

Rounding off the theatre's month of music is TV and recording star Joe Longthorne on Thu 25 May, set to take audiences on a rollercoaster of songs and impressions including Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin.

As summer rolls on so too will the music! Brian Poole & The Tremeloes, The Big Chris Barber Band and Joe McElderry are all in the line-up for July, with Islands in the Stream set to be a crowd pleaser for lovers of Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton.

Book now for your May music fix. Call the Box Office on 0844 871 7607 (bkg fee. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge) or visit www.atgtickets.com/aylesbury (bkg fee).

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SUMMER of MUSIC

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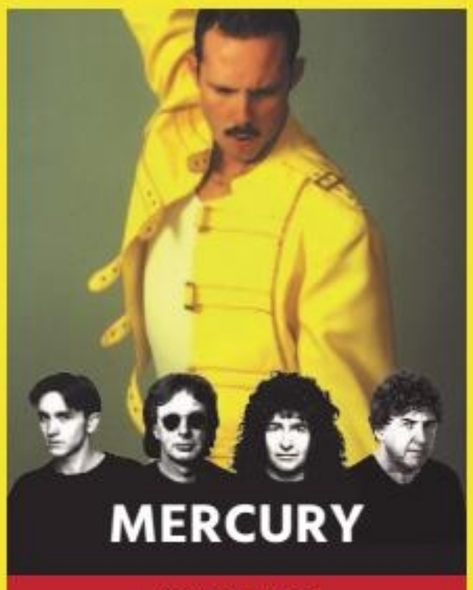

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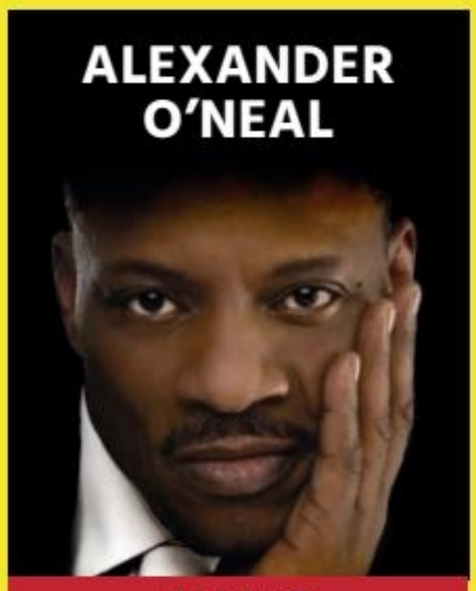
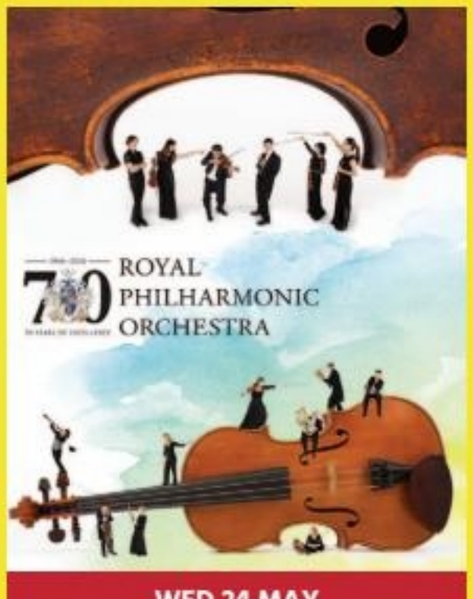


FRI 12 MAY

SAT 13 MAY



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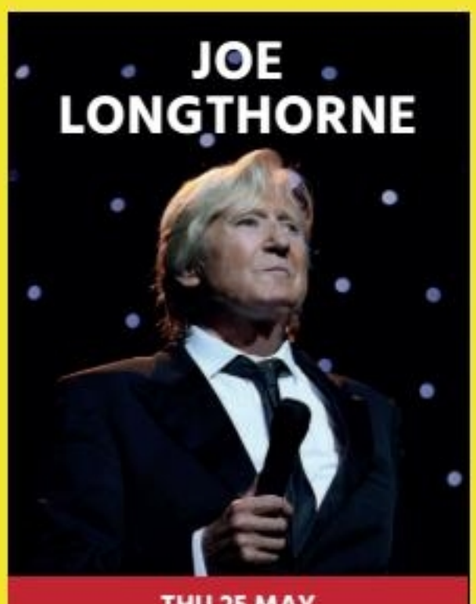

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SUMMER of MUSIC

WIN two tickets to Reading Festival!

THE mighty Reading Festival returns on the August Bank Holiday with three incredible headliners in the shape of rap legend Eminem, indie giants Kasabian and British rock heroes Muse.

As always, there is a huge supporting lineup of the best artists from across the current musical spectrum. Among those joining Kasabian on Friday 25th August will be Bastille, Two Door Cinema Club, Fat Boy Slim, You Me at Six, Lethal Bizzle and Billy Talent.

Closing date: Friday, May 19.

Saturday 26th sees Major Lazer, Korn, Flume, Oxford's own Glass Animals, Andy C, While She Sleeps and Black Lips covering all the bases ahead of Eminem's unmissable headline show.

And before Muse take over the main stage on Sunday 27th August, fans can take in the return of the mighty Liam Gallagher, Blossoms, Giggs, Haim, Wiley, Marshmello, The Hunna and Ash across the various stages.

In fact almost 200 acts have been announced so far, with more to come including the BBC Introducing and Alternative stages for the best in comedy and up and coming acts. There really is something for every music fan to make Reading 2017 an unforgettable weekend with your mates.

For the full lineup and to buy tickets visit www.readingfestival.com

Win tickets!

We have a pair of weekend camping tickets up for grabs, and to be in with a chance of winning them, all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

Q: What is the title of Kasabian's forthcoming new album?

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For further information contact Festival Director
Em Marshall-Luck at English Music Festival, Suite M0222,
265-269 Kingston Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3NW
or by email to: em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk.

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Audi A5 3.0 TDI Quattro S Line - S tronic (218PS)

The A5 is AI for the modern driver

By **Tony Yates**

Power and efficiency

The A5 I had on test was powered by a 218PS 3.0 litre V6 turbocharged diesel engine which produces sharp responsiveness with the added bonus of 400Nm of torque and easily manages to complete the 0-62 mph sprint in just 6.2 seconds, yet returned a combined 57.1 mpg - which you have to admit is pretty good for a V6. I am also going to be bold here and say that the 3.0 V6 is a brilliant engine and Audi have done a fantastic job of wringing out every last bit of horsepower.

On the road

As you would expect the A5 handling is poised thanks to Audi's engineers setting up the suspension with perfect precision, although the ride can be quite harsh, especially for those of you who wanted a softer approach. If you do decide to engage WARP drive and stick it into the corners – you will safely come out the other side still pointing in the same direction - mainly due to the fact that it has Audi's brilliant Quattro permanent all-wheel drive system fitted which happens to have a self-locking center differential and Torque Vectoring - along with a whole host of safety features such as ABS, EBD and a dual circuit breaking system.

Equipment, safety and technology

As you would expect from Audi, the cabin materials are exceptional quality and this runs right though the veins of the A5. There is even more good news – because gone are the days of the normal dull plastics that you expect from the Audi designers. Overall then, the quality and feel inside are excellent, with all the dials and switches set out in such a way that the driver will always have finger tip control with minimal effort.

There's also plenty of standard kit - like Air-con, cruise control, duel zone climate control, automatic wipers, Bluetooth handsfree, reversing sensors, tyre pressure monitoring and a leather steering wheel. Plus, thanks to the all-new operating and display concept, including free-text search, the driver can control all functions effortlessly and intuitively. As an alternative to the standard-fit analog instrument dials, there is the Audi virtual cockpit (option), which you can customise just by pressing the 'view' button on the multi-function steering wheel. Choose the 'classic' view, with prominent speedometer and rev counter, or the 'infotainment' view, which brings functions such as the navigation map or media to the fore – with crisp 3D graphics and highly detailed effects.

There are also an abundance of driver assistance systems that cover a wide range of functions in the A5, all combining an intelligent combination of different technologies to enhance safety, comfort and efficiency.

To sum up:

I like the Audi A5 a lot – thanks mainly to how it makes you feel when you drive it. I am not sure it could get any better really. Once again Audi have proved why the A5 is a car that ticks all the boxes for the modern driver.

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• *Can it get any better than the Audi A5?*

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Total Amount of Credit	£7,342	Annual Mileage	8,000
Interest Charges	£835		

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

i20 SE 1.2

Monthly Payments	£159	Total Amount Payable	£12,976
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Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£500	Duration of Agreement	37 months
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Interest Charges	£981		

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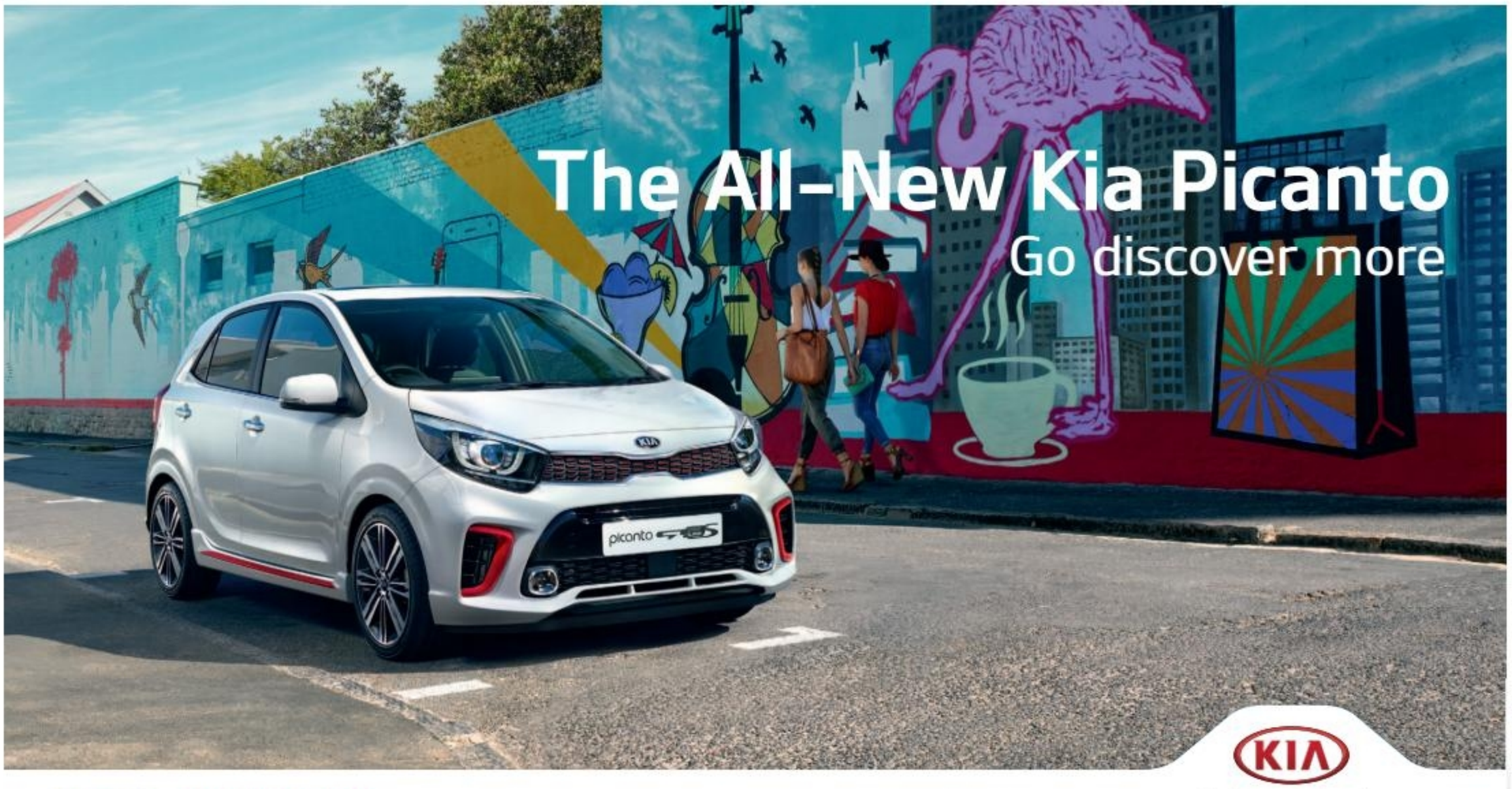

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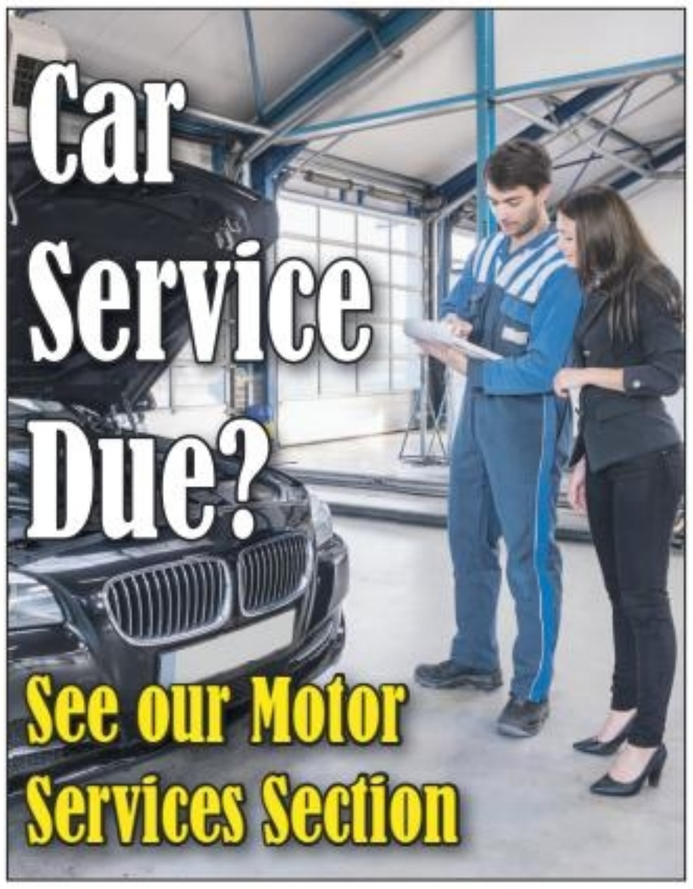

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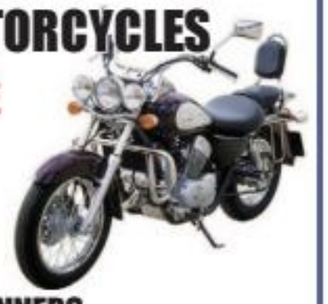

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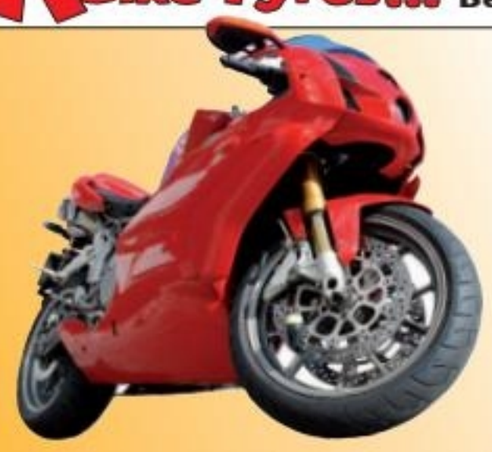

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MERRY Tiller rotovator with Briggs and Stratton engine. 4 blades, wheels, skid etc. working but has slight oil leak tel: 01865 891271

WHEEL chair £20 01235 523689

NEF gas hob black 4 burners electric ignition £50 tel: 01235 523689

PINE bed in good condition with double mattres brand new £1000 ono tel: 01993 851454

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WHEELBARROW garden planters handmade, £25 each. Tel: 01993 705570.

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BAR kitchen high chair stools, two left. Light natural wood, good strong classical chair, £20. Tel: 07944 106694.

SET six Aunt Sally sticks, medium weight, old but good, £12. New set costs £30+. Tel: 07944 106694.

SET three square decanters in frame, clean good condition, approximately one pint each glass, £25. Tel: 07944 106694.

WANTED 1966 Kellogg's Sugar Smacks plastic Thunderbird models. Tel: 0118 667940.

WOODEN bed guard suitable child eighteen months to 5 years, £7. Instruction leaflet, John Lewis Baby Dan, excellent condition. Tel: 01491 651976.

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THREE-SEATER garden swing with cushions, metal frame, good condition, buyer collects, £25. Tel: 01235 210790.

JUICE extractor. Dualit. Best of juicers. Cost £100. Accept £80 ONO. As new, collect Blewbury. Tel: 01235 850619.

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GECKO terrarium two cave foliage water bowl thermometer vgc £50 01865 714519

2 Halfords roofers bike rack VGC £8 each 01993 778827

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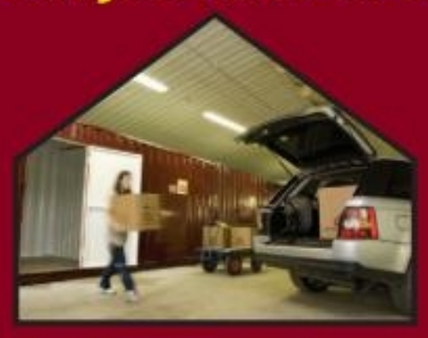

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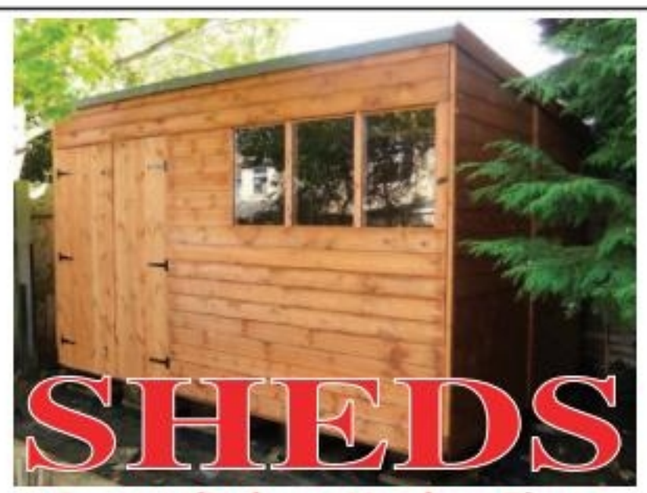

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Romain Grosjean diving up the inside of Jolyon Palmer just before the two collided. Picture: Haas F1

Drivers blame each other over opening lap collision

F1

By Adam Flinn

ROMAIN Grosjean and Jolyon Palmer have blamed each other for the crash that took both drivers out at the start of the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi on Sunday.

The pair – racing for Oxfordshire-based teams Haas and Renault respectively – were trying to make up ground on the opening lap when the collision happened at turn two.

Grosjean spotted a gap and lunged his Haas up the inside of Palmer, expecting the Renault driver to leave him some space.

But Palmer turned in and the two cars ended up in the wall, ending both their races on the spot.

Unsurprisingly both drivers had a different take on the crash, with Grosjean saying Palmer didn't leave him any room and Palmer arguing that he himself was being squeezed by a car on his other side.

Palmer said: "I had a decent enough start, then heading down to turn two there was a Sauber on my outside when Romain made a very ambitious move over the kerbs on the inside from behind.

"There was no space for me to go because of the Sauber, so maybe Romain wasn't aware of that, but he kept it in, hit me, then we were both out of the race.

"That was a shame for both of us really. I feel for my crew this weekend as they've worked so hard on the car, then we had such a short race."

It concluded a bad weekend for both drivers, after Palmer crashed out of qualifying and Grosjean set the slowest time of the day on Saturday.

Grosjean said: "We had a great start and I was on the inside of Palmer under braking.

"I don't know why he turned in, I was there and then he turned in. I tried to get as much as I could on the apex, but he just hit me, spun and came back and hit me again.

"I was full of hope that we could understand what was going on over the weekend, get some more mileage and understand things so we can perform at the next race.

"Though we were maybe not going to score points, it's always good to be able to see what we could do."

Incredible 'Hulk' in best result of the year

F1

NICO Hulkenberg scored Renault's best result of the season so far as he finished eighth at Sochi on Sunday.

The German ran a different strategy to everyone else, keeping his ultra soft tyres until lap 40 before stopping – around 20 laps longer than the majority of the grid. It was hoped this would give him better grip over Esteban Ocon in seventh at the end to be able to get past on a newer set of super soft tyres.

But he ended up finishing a second adrift of the Force India.

Hulkenberg said: "I lost track position at the start so we let everyone else pit ahead of us and went as long as we could go on the first set of boots.

"I kept pushing and the car performed really well, staying switched on with the track improvement meaning I was able to get faster and faster.

"I was definitely happier with our race pace. We've still got more work to do but we've clearly taken a step in the right direction this weekend."

Elsewhere, Kevin Magnussen had a disappointing afternoon as he could only bring his Haas home in 13th.

He had managed to get into the top 10, but a five-second penalty for exceeding track limits on the first lap pushed him back down the order.

Magnussen said: "It's been a bit of an off weekend for us but we've learned from it."

Blues eye Canada tonic after cup disappointment

Jordan Gill goes over for Oxford Picture: Oxford RL

Rugby League

OXFORD RL lost their first ever semi-final as they crashed out of the Kingstone Press League 1 Cup on Sunday.

The Blues' fine run in the competition came to an end when they lost 64-14 at Barrow Raiders, despite a fantastic first half from the visitors.

The Raiders took the lead early on through Ryan Fieldhouse.

Oxford stood toe to toe with their hosts and responded to two Shane Toal tries and a Brad Brennan score with three first half tries of their own through Casey Canterbury, Jordan Gill and Scott Fleming.

Despite a great first half from the Blues to go in just six points behind at 20-14 Barrow's quality and experience blitzed the second half.

Tom Walker, James Duerden and Dan Abrams bundled over to make Barrow's lead comprehensive.

Lewis Charnock (twice), Joe Bullock (twice) and Toal (his hat-trick) crossed as the Raiders blasted their way out of Oxford's sight.

But disappointment quickly turned to excitement for Oxford's players as they embark on their long awaited transatlantic adventure.

The Blues are the first team to play away at Toronto Wolfpack, who this year are playing in the English domestic rugby league.

The pair clash at Toronto's Lamport Stadium on Saturday.

A puncture ruined Felipe Massa's race. Picture: Williams Martini Racing

Felipe deflated after puncture

F1

A SLOW puncture cost Williams and Felipe Massa a deserved haul of points as he dropped from sixth to ninth at Sunday's Russian Grand Prix.

Massa looked set for another strong sixth place finish but had to make a second pitstop towards the end, meaning he went from scoring eight points to picking up just two.

This also put him a lap down on the leaders at the end, with Sebastian Vettel signalling his frustration at Massa as he felt he was held up while trying to lap him when chasing down eventual race winner Valtteri Bottas.

Massa said: "I'm disappointed, we were just unlucky with the tyres.

"I was really taking care of the car and the tyres, keeping the gaps in the right place, and we had a sixth position in our pocket.

"It is unfortunate and painful for the team that we have lost good points, but we can't do anything about it."

Smith 'loving the challenge'

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith is loving "the whole challenge" with his new Red Bull KTM team ahead of the fourth MotoGP race of the season in Spain.

The Forest Hill racer was left frustrated and disappointed last time out in Texas after just missing out on scoring a point.

Pull&Bear Aspar Team rider Alvaro Bautista finished 15.543 seconds ahead of the 26-year-old but he is remaining upbeat and relishing the challenge ahead of this week's race at Jerez.

"Fighting for a single world championship point may be something that I'm not used to but I honestly love the whole challenge with a new MotoGP team," Smith said.

"I've been sixth in the MotoGP world championship and stood on a MotoGP podium but I'm getting more fulfilment from what I'm doing this season than any of those special moments.

"The guys in the team have been amazing and work so hard," he said.

"They have introduced little changes throughout the three weekends to give us the best and we have always been competitive.

"It is just a constant evolution of progression and it's a road, as we have already seen, that will have its ups and downs."

KTM are hoping to have a new engine configuration in place for the Spanish Grand Prix this weekend.

Hoops sunk by Fleet

Oxford City

HEADS were held high after Oxford City put in a spirited performance in the last game of the season against a team gunning for the National League South title.

The Hoops knew it wasn't going to be a relaxed season finale in front of a bumper Ebbsfleet United crowd with the Kent side ready to snatch the title should leaders Maidenhead slip up – they didn't.

Despite a strong second half showing from City, winger Anthony Cook's early strike was enough to see the Fleet home in a game where both goalkeepers were kept busy.

Although Kaiman Anderson saw an early shot deflected behind for a corner for the visitors, Ebbsfleet found the net with a fifth minute strike to settle any home nerves as Cook calmly stroked the ball past Craig Hill.

The goal proved to be the winner but City gave it a go and presented a good account of themselves.

Oxford boss Mark Jones was full of praise for his players.

He said: "I was proud of the players' performance and the way they went about it.

"The players' attitudes were good. We played some good football, particularly in the second half where I felt we got on top, and maybe on another day we would have got a draw.

"We're not celebrating a 1-0 defeat but we certainly came off of the pitch knowing that we had given a good performance.

Mike Fondop tries his luck for City against Ebbsfleet. Picture: Michael Allen

"Our lads were a credit to the club. After the game a few of their people said we perhaps deserved more and we were one of the better sides they had played this season which gives us a lot of encouragement."

When Jones took charge in December, the Hoops were struggling for form and were languishing 17th in the National League South, six points above the relegation zone.

But 21 games and nine wins later, City finished the season in the comfort of mid-table security.

Jones added: "The players have done very well during the second half of the season, we're pleased with how we've come on and now we need to take all of those positives and look at how we can improve and move forwards again."

City finished 14th while Fleet will have to contest the play-offs after finishing second on 96 points.

Josh Ruffels signs autographs for young fans whilst parading round the crowd. Picture: Steve Daniels.

U's are excellent for families

OXFORD United have been awarded the EFL Family Excellence Award for the 2016/17 season.

Created in 2007, the EFL Family Excellence Award has been presented to the club for the match day experience it provides to young fans and families.

Now in their 10th anniversary, more and more young people have made their way through the turnstiles in the EFL, with junior season ticket sales having increased by 37 per cent since 2007.

Such evidence is a strong indication of a healthy future for football in this country, according to EFL chief executive Shaun Harvey.

He said: "The EFL Family Excellence Awards have proven to be a fantastic vehicle for celebrating and highlighting the excellent progress that clubs are making in providing families with improved match day experiences.

"Now in their 10th year, the awards have made a significant impact and this year's winners have once again shown how innovative thinking and a strong commitment can enhance the experience for both home and away.

"I wish to congratulate each and every club who has been recognised for playing their part in continuing to attract a growing number of younger fans to the game in what is undoubtedly a valuable indication of a bright and healthy future for the EFL."

The U's have secured the award in every year they have been eligible to receive it.

The award recipients are decided using independent assessments from families who make match day visits across all 72 league clubs, during the 2016/17 season.

Cup glory concludes successful season

Ardley United

THE champagne was flowing after Ardley United rounded off their season in style as they won the Uhlsport Hellenic League Supplementary Cup with a 2-0 victory over Tuffley Rovers.

Leam Howards was the goalscoring hero on Saturday as his two fine strikes just before the interval settled the final at Wantage's Alfredian Park.

These teams know each other well, for the cup final clash was the fifth meeting between the Hellenic Premier League sides this season, and the latest win reaffirmed the north Oxfordshire side's superiority with their fourth victory.

Ardley boss Paul Davis admitted his side were slow out the blocks, but it mattered little when Howards struck twice on the cusp of half-time to dramatically change both manager's team talks.

The striker bagged his first two minutes before the break when he latched onto a through ball from Carl Tappin to shoot first time on the edge of the box over the advancing keeper and into the net.

A minute into added time and it was game over when Jack Ross played in goal hungry Howards, who fired across the keeper into the bottom corner.

The second half increased in tempo and tempers flared as both teams finished the contest a man light.

Tuffley's Liam Wright was sent for an early shower as Rovers' hopes of glory disappeared down the drain following a lunge on Luke Cray on 53 minutes.

And United's Joel Meade received his second yellow of the afternoon late on for a push with three minutes remaining – but it didn't impact the outcome.

A jubilant Davis said: "I am delighted to finish the season with a trophy – it's a nice end for the players, staff and everyone connected to the club at the end of a long season."

Ardley skipper Luke Cray added: "It's nice to finish the season with a cup win, we were disappointed not to reach the final of the Floodlit Cup [after a semi-final defeat] when our ambition was to finish fifth and win a cup, but we've done it now so it's smiles all round.

"I feel it's been a successful season overall."

United women extend winless season

OUFCW

OXFORD United Women remain rooted to the bottom of the table as they extended their winless campaign with a 2-1 defeat to Watford Ladies in their first home game since March.

The U's threw away an early lead at the Northcourt in Abingdon to record an unwanted sixth loss in eight Spring Series matches.

With only two points on the board and four points behind the team above them with a single game remaining, United are certain to finish rock bottom.

But in Sunday's game, after a nervy opening five minutes, the Yellows found their footing and controlled the early exchanges. And a first win of the campaign was on the cards when an unmarked Ellie Noble headed the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper and into the net from a seventh minute free kick.

Watford wrestled back control of the ball and were back on level terms midway through the first half.

A Hornets free kick of their own was flicked on by Rinsola Babajide to Charlotte Kerr, who prodded home off the bar from two yards out.

Oxford defenders Riva Casley, Rosie Lane, Jess Frampton and Evie Gane were put under the cosh by Babajide and fellow forwards Leah Cudone and Kerr as the half turned scrappy.

The second half started with a golden opportunity for Oxford's Lauren Allison, but the striker squandered a one-on-one with goalkeeper Jo Fletcher as her attempted chip went inches over.

But the winner arrived with 13 minutes to go when terrific wing play by Babajide put the ball on a plate for Kerr to flick in her second.

Oxford threw everything at their opponents in the last 10 minutes and both Frampton and Emily Donovan had long-range shots saved.

At the other end of the pitch, Demi Lambourne made three brilliant saves to give her team a chance of coming away with something.

But it wasn't to be and boss Andy Cook's search for a win will continue in the season finale at home against Doncaster Rovers Belles on May 21.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	46	45	100
2	Bolton Wanderers	46	32	86
3	Scunthorpe United	46	26	82
4	Fleetwood Town	46	21	82
5	Bradford City	46	19	79
6	Millwall	46	9	73
7	Southend United	46	17	72
8	Oxford United	46	13	69
9	Rochdale	46	9	69
10	Bristol Rovers	46	-2	66
11	Peterborough United	46	0	62
12	MK Dons	46	2	61
13	Charlton Athletic	46	7	60
14	Walsall	46	-7	58
15	AFC Wimbeldon	46	-3	57
16	Northampton Town	46	-13	53
17	Oldham Athletic	46	-13	53
18	Shrewsbury Town	46	-17	51
19	Bury	46	-12	50
20	Gillingham	46	-20	50
21	Port Vale	46	-25	49
22	Swindon Town	46	-22	44
23	Coventry City	46	-31	39
24	Chesterfield	46	-35	37

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Hall of fame for striker

Forward chalks up United's 100th goal of the season

By George Welch

OXFORD United chalked up a century of goals for the season in a 2-0 win against Shrewsbury Town on Sunday.

Forward Rob Hall scored United's 100th of the campaign as the curtain came down on a memorable year at the Kassam.

The Yellows' 62nd game of a hectic year was decided by two early goals from centre back Curtis Nelson and Hall within 20 minutes.

United secured an eighth-place finish in the first SkyBet League One campaign in 15 years for Michael Appleton's side.

Oxford lost both full backs to injuries in the first 13 minutes. Joe Skarz broke his nose and Christian Ribeiro – finally making his home debut after an injury-hit season – pulled a hamstring.

But the U's – donning their 2017/18 home strip – struck three minutes later from an unlikely source.

A neat back heel from Marvin Johnson, who was playing upfront again, set the free-flowing U's on their way when he found Hall who, in turn, rolled the ball to Nelson.

The 23-year-old roared forward with purpose to lash the ball past a stranded Jayson Leutwiler.

A minute later it was game over.

Chris Maguire – who finished the season with a career best of 17 goals – was offered the freedom of the Kassam by the static Shrews defence.

His low delivery across the six-yard box was perfect for the onrushing Hall who got across his man to force the ball home for United's 100th goal. Shrewsbury, who were safe from relegation barring something extraordinary, found hitting the back of the net a little more problematic, although Bryn Morris went close with a header from close range in the first half.

Abu Ogogu and Stefan Payne went close soon after the restart in a frustrating afternoon for the visiting Shrews, who eventually escaped the drop by two points.

Maguire, who is out of contract in the summer and could have played his last game for the club, received a standing ovation when withdrawn with 15 minutes to go.

His replacement Kane Hemmings then scuffed his left footed effort harmlessly wide in stoppage time.

Goalkeeper Simon Eastwood, who collected two prizes at the end of season awards, played every minute of United's season and Sunday's clean sheet was his 21st of the campaign.

United finished in their highest position since 1999 – a frustrating four points off the play-offs.

Elsewhere, Bolton will join champions Sheffield United in the Championship after beating Peterborough United to secure second spot.

Scunthorpe United, Fleetwood Town, Bradford City and Millwall will contest the play-offs while, at the other end, a draw wasn't enough for Port Vale, who will join already-relegated Swindon Town, Coventry City and Chesterfield in League Two next year.

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